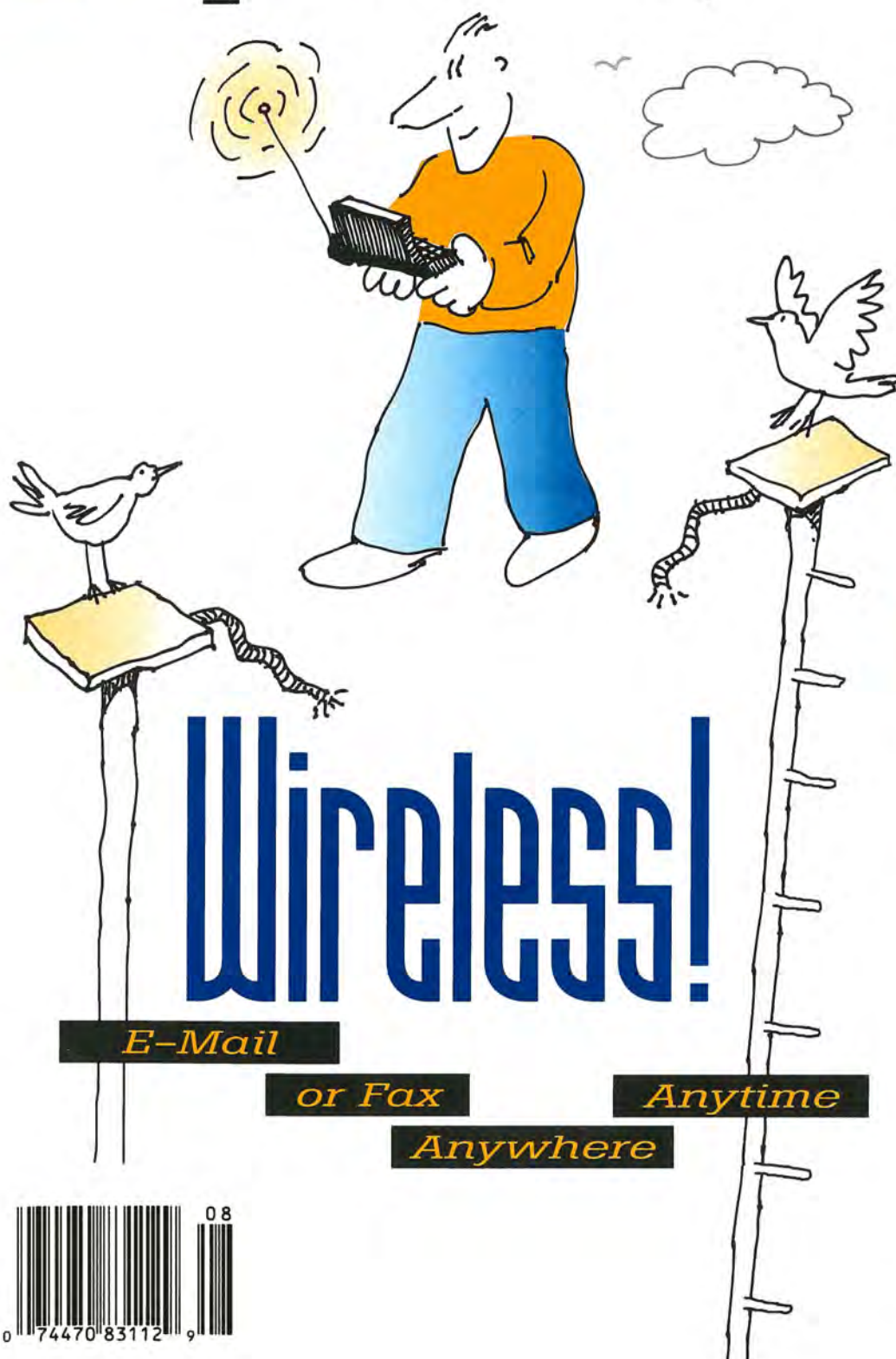


# THE HP Palmtop Paper



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# Publisher's Message



Hal Goldstein

Whether you travel across town or around the world, keeping in touch is a challenge. Away from the office, you may need to quote prices to a customer, exchange information with a colleague, communicate with your husband or wife about picking up the kids. Enter the HP Palmtop. Add a special communications device and a wireless service and you can be almost anywhere and stay in touch without the hassles of trying to find a phone to make a modem connection.

We have devoted this issue to wireless technology and the HP Palmtop. In it you'll find background information as well as concrete solutions. As you read, you will discover that each solution has its strengths and limitations, however, you will be better equipped to find a solution that will work for you.

Frankly, for some time the whole field of wireless technology sounded

like gobbledy-gook to me. Since wireless technology is pretty much outside our reach in the small rural home of Thaddeus Computing, I haven't put much attention in this area. However, my trip to an HP OmniGo 700LX conference in London opened my eyes (see my User to User column). While I was there I was unable to make a modem connection at my hotel, and I needed to receive some crucial information from the home office. During a break outside the meeting hall, someone loaned me their PCMCIA cellular modem card and cellular phone. With a few keystrokes I was able to get my e-mail!

There are basically five elements to setting up a wireless system: hardware platform (Palmtop), software, communications device, service provider, and wireless network. Service providers attempt to create packages so consumers don't have to sort through all the options. However, a basic understanding of the possibilities is still necessary for you to make the best choice. To that end, read David Shier's wireless overview (page 12) and Frank Nagle's hands-on discussion (page 23) to get a sense of the whole. Then read about the AllPoints/WyndMail and RadioMail combinations, the latest about the HP 700LX communicator, and about Ham Radio and the Palmtop.

Our How to Use section is a fun read. First learn how a trucker and an Archbishop use their Palmtops. Then discover that many of us have grown so fond of our Palmtops that we have given them names, some very creative.

Finally, please take the time to fax back our Reader Survey (page 41). We can best serve you if we know what you like and don't like about our publication. Whether you tell us to leave *The HP Palmtop Paper* exactly as it is or make radical suggestions for change, your input will help us do a better job meeting your Palmtop needs.

P.S. Hope to see you at the Anaheim HP Handheld conference (page 7). We will be giving away autographed copies of our new book *PC in Your Pocket*.

*Hal Goldstein*

## The HP Palmtop Paper

INCREASING YOUR  
PERSONAL POWER  
BY EXPANDING YOUR  
PALMTOP'S POTENTIAL

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July/August 1996

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# Palmtop Wisdom

*Personal Effectiveness Using the HP Palmtop*

[Tips by Associate Editor Carol de Giere unless otherwise indicated.]

## TIME MANAGEMENT

### *Use "boilerplate" to save hours of paperwork*

"Boilerplating" is an efficiency lover's dream, ideally suited to computers. Whenever you insert a standardized block of text into a document and then personalize it, you are taking advantage of this time-saving technique. For example, let's say you are a tax consultant and you keep getting the same question about capital gains tax over and over again. If you're smart, you answer it once and save the answer as a Memo document. Whenever you get the question again, you open a new document in Memo, type in: "Dear John, thanks for the question on capital gains tax...." Then press **[MENU]** File Insert, select the document that has the answer and press **[ENTER]**. Go through the finished document once and adjust the stock answer if needed to fit the letter you are writing. Then all you have to do is print out the new document, or save it and give it to your assistant to print out and send off.

### ON THE HP PALMTOP

There are a number of Palmtop approaches to boilerplating. The example above shows how you might save boilerplate as Memo documents. You could also create a custom Database or use the NoteTaker application to save boilerplate. Going back to our tax consultant example, he or she might open NoteTaker, press **[F2]** to add an item, and enter **Capital Gains** in the Title

field and the answer to the question in the Note field. Whenever the consultant needed specific boilerplate, he or she would open NoteTaker, highlight the question or topic in the All Notes field, press **[F3]** to go to the Notes field, and use the Palmtop's Copy and Paste features to copy the answer to a Memo document. They might also create a system macro that automates the process.

### APPLY BOILERPLATING TO OTHER USES

Any expert consultant can receive hundreds of requests for information. Stock answers kept on the Palmtop as boilerplate save time and let a consultant answer more requests for information.

A real estate investor or agent writing a contract can pull out a database of standard clauses for modifying a contract. A professor with 100's of essays to read and give feedback on, can store an assortment of often-used comments and cut them into his or her written feedback quickly and easily.

The concept of boilerplating can be used with spreadsheet templates or database files as well as text documents. In any case, the trick is to identify blocks of text, formulas and formats that you use over and over again, and save them as a boilerplate for future use.

### *Keep your Palmtop "desk" clean*

As barnacles grow on a boat, so stuff aggregates about our offices — and on our Palmtops. In the physical and electronic world, clutter hampers our effectiveness and our fulfillment.

The solution is to regularly clean up, throw out and organize. Experts

advise that you schedule a filing session once a week to deal with piles of paper and unwanted mail on your desk or in your in-box. Lessen the incoming volume of mail by taking the time to get off mailing lists. They also advise to clean up your desk at the end of each day, throw away anything you haven't used in six months, and create storage spaces for your nonessential, but treasured barnacles.

### KEEPING THE PALMTOP CLEAN

Most of this advice applies to your Palmtop. Make a weekly appointment for yourself to finish up and clean off past appointments and ToDos. If you are signed up for several online news groups you may have to wade through hundreds of non-essential messages. Look carefully at the news groups you are signed up for and eliminate the ones you don't really need, read, or respond to.

Additional advice on the subject was given by Conrad Cox, leader of a Users Group in San Francisco. Conrad wrote this advice in the Users Group newsletter:

"When the new year comes, people who use paper appointment books and planners can throw them out the window of their high rise. On my Palmtop, I extract the previous year's activity from my Appointment Book file. I review each PhoneBook entry and delete any that are no longer needed. I use Filer to review the files on my Palmtop's C drive and A drive. I delete files for applications that I no longer use. Most of the other Palmtop users in our group extract their old appointments more frequently. This helps reduce the size of the appointment file, so the



Appointment Book's response time is faster. The same is true with files for PhoneBook, Database and other built-in applications."

Rich Hall, Managing Editor for *The HP Palmtop Paper*, advises to go through the category field of PhoneBook, NoteTaker and Database and rethink your categories. Combine categories into new and comprehensive ones. Eliminate categories you don't use. This will make the Subset and Sort features work faster.

Rich echoes Conrad's advice on Filer. He periodically reviews all files on his Palmtop. If he no longer needs a file, he deletes it. If he thinks he'll need it in the next three months, he keeps it on his Palmtop. If he thinks he may need it sometime in the future, or is not sure whether he will or not, he backs it up to a floppy disk and removes it from the Palmtop.

Rich advises that you be careful when you delete application files.

Check your AppManager screen first and delete the icons for programs you no longer want. Make a list of the icons you deleted, and the ones you intend to keep. Consult the list when you delete the application files with Filer.

### *Promote increased wisdom in the world*

A good idea is usually created by an individual and used by society to move forward and better mankind. Look at any profession or scientific discipline, any philosophy or theology, any business. Good ideas are created by people like you or I and shared within and beyond the organization to the benefit of society.

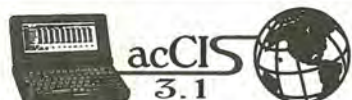
*The HP Palmtop Paper* is the product of this process. The editors do very little writing (but a lot of editing) to bring you the best of the experts. Articles and tips come from members of CompuServe's HP

HAND forum, Internet sites, HP technical support personnel, and most importantly, subscribers to *The HP Palmtop Paper*.

Keep an entry in your NoteTaker file dedicated to fellow Palmtop users. Next time you have a good idea about something, jot it down and send it in to us. Ideas could include:

- ☐ How to do something better on the Palmtop,
- ☐ A challenge you overcame using the Palmtop,
- ☐ A product you've discovered that makes the Palmtop even better,
- ☐ Some wonderful bit of personal wisdom that you can use the Palmtop to actualize.

This approach can and should be used in other areas of life. It's the small, good contributions that add up over the long haul, making life better for you, your family, friends and the world.



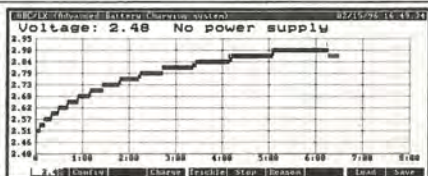
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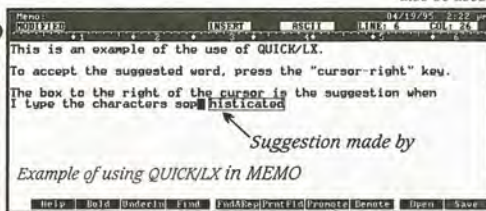


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# Letters

## Australians Track Water Systems on the Palmtop

Goulburn-Murray Water is a utility involved in providing irrigation and drainage to a large area of the north central part of Victoria in Australia. The irrigation systems contain some 60,000 assets. As part of asset management HP Palmtops have been used in the role of data loggers. A simple Lotus 1-2-3 file was set up on the Palmtops and four members of my team trudged along some 3440 km of channels and 2000 km of drains, log-

ging physical features and assessing the condition rating of the channels, drains, and associated structures. This information was subsequently automatically loaded into a computerized Asset Management System.

Generally the Palmtops behaved very well under the exposed conditions. However, one mishap did occur when one of the team members forgot to be a "good soldier" and took his Palmtop with him when he fell into a drain. I must say that I didn't exclaim "gee, golly, gosh" when I found out that he had lost some five days of data.

Victor Zurawski  
Executive Engineer,  
Distribution Assets Group  
Goulburn-Murray Water

## Unfreezing the Palmtop

Recently my Palmtop froze up (on a Friday evening of course!) and I was able to access the information on how to reset it ((CTRL)-[SHIFT]-[ON]) from a recent HP Palmtop Paper. I felt extremely thankful as I would otherwise have had to wait until the following Monday to talk to HP's technical folks to resolve the situation.

Anonymous phone caller

## Chess for the HP 200LX

If you do not mind spending the money, Fritz 2.0 is a very good chess program that works on the HP 200LX. It

includes some great features, including game analysis, game databases, solve for mate, set-up positions, etc. It plays a pretty decent game (probably rates around 2000). It definitely beats me on a regular basis, but that's not saying much.

I like to use it to follow games out of the newspaper or work out chess problems. It's available from Chessbase USE for \$49.95 (phone: 800-524-3527 or 301-733-7541; Fax: 301-797-6269).

I definitely feel like I have gotten my money's worth.

Fred Rice/Chi  
76274.1236@compuserve.com.

## Palmtops are Rugged

I read Steven Leibson's letter about attaching grip strips in the Vol. 5, No 2 1996 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*. I had exactly the same experience as he did when I opened the box, but the Palmtop did fall on the floor! Since then it has also survived a 3-foot drop onto solid concrete with no ill effects (so far).

My last Palmtop was a 95LX which survived 2 glasses of water and 1 cup of coffee being (accidentally, and not at the same time) poured over the keyboard. When this happened I immediately turned the Palmtop upside down and put tissue paper between the lid and keyboard to soak up the liquid. My 95LX gave up the ghost about 3 months after the coffee treatment (may just have been the caffeine). However, my experience is that the Palmtop seems to be more rugged than it looks!

William Martin  
Hong Kong

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# New Products!

This section lists new products of interest to users of the HP Palmtop PCs. New Products includes descriptions of hardware, software, books, videos, training and service offerings. Prices listed in this section are suggested retail. You may be able to get the products for less if you shop around.

Editorial Staff  
HP Palmtop Paper

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## HP PALMTOP USER GROUPS

Those interested in participating in an HP Palmtop users group should contact the following individuals. Send us contact information formatted as below if you wish to be added as a contact for a users group in your area.

**HP Palmtop Worldwide User Group News** — send material about User Group activities to *Ahmet G. Ozisik at the Turkish User Group* (see contact information below).

**ARGENTINA** — 100/200LX users in Argentina, contact: *Miguel Angel Missen, E-mail: 73070.3665@compuserve.com*.

**Arlington, VA / Washington, DC (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the Arlington, VA / Washington, DC area, contact: *Rick Shaddock, c/o Computer Instructors Corporation, 2320 South Eads, Arlington, VA, 22202; Phone: 703-486-2222.*

**Atlanta, GA (USA)** — Palmtop users in the Atlanta area, contact: *A.K. Avasthi, Phone: 770-471-1389.*

**Cleveland, OH (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the Cleveland area, contact: *Craig de Fassel, c/o MEM, Inc., 4702 East 355th St., Willoughby, OH 44094.*

**Boston, MA (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the Boston area, contact: *Bryan Krauthamer, Phone: 617-374-9600 x 197 (work); Fax: 617-374-9620; CompuServe ID: 70444,41.*

**BRAZIL** — 95/100/200LX users in Brazil, contact: *Marcos L. Pedrosa, Rua Trairi 647 Ap 104-B, 59020-150 Natal, RN-BRAZIL; Phone: 55 84 211-6162.*

**Charleston, SC (USA)** — 95/100/200LX users in South Carolina, contact: *Ron Rivers, P.O. Box 31284, Charleston, SC 29417-1284; Phone: 800-864-8444; CompuServe ID: 75023,44.*

**Denver, CO (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the Denver area, contact: *Bill Hoeltgen, 5944 S. Kipling, Suite 300, Littleton, CO 80127; Phone: 303-933-0023; Fax: 303-971-0347. Group meets quarterly.*

**Detroit, MI (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the Detroit area, contact: *Jeff Zorn, 29311 Ara-nel, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2815; Phone: 313-489-1855 or Louis Peeples, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080; Phone: 313-777-9390.*

**FRANCE** — HP Palmtop users in France, contact: *Olivier Della Valle, 178 rue du Marechal Leclerc, 94410 Saint-Maurice, FRANCE; Phone: (1) 43 53 95 67; CompuServe ID: 101533,160.*

**GERMANY** — HP Palmtop/Omnibook users in Germany, contact: *Eckart Prinz, Obere Mühstr. 56a, 64291 Darmstadt, GERMANY; Phone/Fax: +49 6151 376065.*

**GERMANY / LUXEMBOURG** — Not an official user group but this individual is willing to help HP Palmtop users with questions or technical problems; contact: *Gilles Kohl; CompuServe ID: 100114,3146; Phone: +49-721-69-36-55 (after 6 p.m. Central European time).*

**GREECE** — HP Palmtop users in Greece, contact: *Stavros D. Zacharakos, Sofocleous 33, Athens 151 26, GREECE; Phone: (+3-01) 8050041; Mobile Phone: (+3) 093-254-717 24hrs.; Fax: (+3-01) 8050041... OR... John Taisiramos, c/o TAFARM, 70 Andritsis Street 111 46 - Galatsi, GREECE; Phone: (01) 29.17.401; Fax: (01) 29.28.174.*

**HOLLAND/BELGIUM** — HP 95LX/100/200LX users in the low countries, contact: *PROMPT HP-GC, Mister G. Dongs, Postbus 1081, 1500 AB Zaandam, HOLLAND; Phone: +31 75 6 704205; E-mail: 74064.173@compuserve.com*

**INDONESIA** — HP Handheld users (HP 75C, 110, 48, 12, 100/200LX) in Indonesia, contact: *Dirk H. Eversbert, c/o P.T. Austindo Mitratama, Mr. Eiman Sunario, Jl. Gunung Sahari 2/6E, Jakarta 10610, INDONESIA.*

**ITALY** — 95/100/200LX users in Italy, contact: *Stefano Gigli, Via E. Toti, 13-60123 Ancona, ITALY; Phone: 071-36845 or 071-200916; Fax: 071-200916; Internet ID: sgigli@mbx.vol.it*

**JAPAN** — HP Palmtop users in Japan, contact: *Georg O. P. Eschert, Ekimae 1-11-10, Koryama City, Fukushima Pref., JAPAN 963; Phone: 040-12-06980; Fax: 0249-21-4050. (Languages: German, English and Japanese)*

**Kansas (USA)** — 95/100/200LX users in Kansas, contact: *Marietha Wilson, P.O. Box 1151, Manhattan, KS 66502-0012; Phone: 913-532-9775.*

**Los Angeles, CA (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the LA area, contact: *Dave Shier at 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9391; E-mail: david@shier.com; Web site: http://www.shier.com for more information.*

**MEXICO** — Palmtop users in Mexico, contact: *Jose Patino, Ave. Traviesa y Retes #2103, Chihuahua, Chih. CP. 31240, MEXICO; Phone: (14) 26-50-43; Fax: (14) 81-01-75; Internet: patino@mail.interned.com.mx OR... Francisco Brito; Phone: (3) 684-1317; CompuServe ID: 74174,1442*

**Minneapolis, MN (USA)** — HP Palmtop users in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, contact: *Beth Silverwater, P.O. Box 27044, Minneapolis, MN 55427; Phone: 612-541-5631; Fax: 612-541-5636; E-mail: 73502.3645@compuserve.com*

**New Jersey/New York (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the New Jersey/New York area, contact: *Stanley Dobrowski, 169 Springfield Avenue, Rutherford, NJ, 07070-1642; CIS ID: 76711,2302; Phone: 201-807-5857 (work).*

**Oklahoma City, OK (USA)** — 95/100/200LX users in the Oklahoma City area, contact: *Richard B. Meek, 1804 Huntington, Oklahoma City, OK 73116; Residential Phone: 405-842-1267.*

**PANAMA / LATIN AMERICA** — HP Palmtop users in Panama or Latin America, contact: *Aviran Yanir, P.O. Box 31002 Colon Free Zone, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA; Phone: 507-4410442; Fax: 507-4410473.*

**PHILIPPINES** — HP Palmtop users in the Philippines, contact: *Carlos Calivara, 2nd floor, DHMC Bldg., 109 Neptune St., Bel-Air, Makati City, PHILIPPINES; Phone: (632) 8906229 to 36, extensions 120 & 121; Fax: (632) 9285635; Internet ID: law1@mail.ph.net*

**Phoenix and Tucson, AZ (USA)** — HP Palmtop users in the Phoenix/Tucson area, contact: *Cory L. Curtis, P.O. Box 23502, Phoenix, AZ 85063-3502; Phone: 602-930-9661; Fax: 602-930-8554; CIS ID: 102010,632; E-mail: palmtops@sterlink.com*

**PORTUGAL** — 95LX/100/200LX users in Portugal, contact: *PPTUG, Rua da SFUAP, A-8, 2810 Laranjeira, PORTUGAL; Phone/Fax: 351-1-2597216; Internet: sulplano@individual.eunet.pt*

**Richmond, VA (USA)** — 95LX/100/200LX users in the Central Virginia area, contact: *John Haskell, 7102 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226-3615; CIS ID: 70750,1243 or Phone: 804-288-6073 (work).*

**San Diego, CA (USA)** — 100/200LX users in the San Diego area, contact: *Don Williams at 619-452-6267 or 619-546-8168; E-mail: donw@cis.com for more information.*

**San Francisco, CA (USA)** — Users in the Bay Area of Northern California, contact: *Conrad Cox e-mail: 6164.467@compuserve.com*

**TURKEY** — HP Palmtop users in Turkey, contact: *Ahmet G. Ozisik, Soyak Binasi, Buyukdere Cad. 38, Mecidiyekoy, Istanbul 80290, TURKEY; Phone: (212) 275 09 10 (ext. 309); Fax: (212) 211 57 61; E-mail: ozisika@doruk.com.tr or aozisik@ibm.net*

**UKRAINE** — HP Palmtop users in the Ukraine, Odessa, Kiev, Crimea regions, contact: *Linetksky V. Oleg, 1, Varvarovsky Spusk, Nikolaev, 327015, UKRAINE; Phone: (051) 36-73-51 36-73-13; Fax: (051) 24-41-25.*

**UNITED KINGDOM** — HP Palmtop users in the United Kingdom, contact: *Michael A. Brown, MBA Group, 33 Albany Avenue, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 5HY, U.K.; Phone: 0181-847-3777; Fax: 0181-569-2402 or*

*David Hodges, HPCC Membership Secretary, 8 Stratford Court, Salisbury Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7AJ, UK, w.mier@ic.ac.uk*



to all open permits and inspection history as well as allowing him/her to record the new inspections.

Pricing: .....\$1,500  
(Including HP 200LX, software, 4MB flash card, and more.)

CONTACT: *CRW Associates, 14980 Via Tazon Suite 320, San Diego, CA 92127, USA; Phone: 619-451-3030; Fax: 619-451-3870.*

## Photographer's DataGuide

Photographer's DataGuide replaces information provided by a number of technical publications and tables. Available in 100/200LX format, DataGuide provides calculation functions, f/stops, filter recommendations, and lots more.

The program covers all major still film formats from 35mm to 8 x 10 in/20 x 25 cm. Data for 16 fixed focal length or zoom lenses can be stored. One section describes 128 pieces of equipment.

The Cinematography module covers film formats from 8mm to 70mm plus four video formats. It provides information on depth of field, hyperfocal distance, angle of view, supplemental lenses, film length and running times, projection, light source conversion, circle of confusion, shutter calculations, equipment listing, and conversion tables.

Almanacs for various countries show data useful for outdoor photography or for anyone who needs to consider natural lighting.

Available: .....August, 1996  
Pricing: (in Pounds Sterling, valid until December 1, 1996.)

Camera: .....60£  
Darkroom: .....40£  
Cinematography: .....80£  
Almanacs: .....40£ each.

CONTACT: *Douglas Software, Sarum Lodge, Main Road, Littleton, Winchester, Hants, SO22 6QS, United Kingdom; Phone: 44 (0) 1962 880495; Fax: 44 (0) 1962 854400.*

## Point of Sale Accounting System

Wincorp International sells a Palmtop-based system to automate Van and Truck sales. It electronically captures invoice, cash and inventory data at the point of sale. The accounting cycle includes the transfer of orders, transfer of inventory, point-of-sale invoice, and printing of receipts, as well as end-of-day transfers of data (for inventory, cash and sales). The system is portable and attaches to a thermal printer. It interfaces with most DOS/Windows Accounting applications. Training and customized options are available.

Pricing: .....\$2,400  
(Not including Palmtop and memory card.)

CONTACT: *Wincorp International, Inc., 10050 NW 116th Way, Suite 11, Medley, FL 33178, USA; Phone: 305-887-4000; Fax: 305-887-4400; E-mail: delapenhas@toj.com*

## TimeTracker/LX

TimeTracker/LX by D&A Software addresses the needs of individuals and companies that need to keep track of time — to bill clients for work done by time, productivity, or for people curious to know "where their time disappeared." TimeTracker/LX was designed for the HP LX platform and uses the familiar GUI display style of the built-in applications. The program relates individual time records with activity types, and can use any number of attributes/categories, allowing you to "slice" the data and view it from many perspectives: "How much time was spent for Client X?", "how much time was spent for Client Y doing activity type Z?" etc.

The product has two modes. The standard mode provides a strong model for time tracking. The Advanced Mode provides more flexibility for different types of needs. Example database templates come with the product and may be used or build onto.

A built-in report "language" allows you to quickly create different reports by describing them via the report specifications. The formats can range from simple Feed files into Lotus Spreadsheets (CDF format) to a report that can be printed and mailed as an invoice to a client. Several report formats come with the product, to be used as is, or modified to meet your needs.

Pricing: .....\$129.00

CONTACT: *See Contact information for VOLT/LX below.*



## VOLT/LX Assists Battery Users

VOLT/LX meets the needs of those Palmtop users who do NOT use rechargeable batteries. The voltage is displayed on the label of the F1 key, where normally the label "Help" appears, without affecting the function of the F1 key. Pressing F1 will display the Help screens as before. VOLT/LX also displays the hours the battery has been used.

VOLT/LX contains all the features needed to monitor the status of non-rechargeable batteries. A \$5.00 coupon is attached to upgrade to ABC/LX v1.0. VOLT/LX is produced by D&A Software Inc.

Pricing: .....\$ 9.95

CONTACT USA: *Shier Systems & Software, 920 Hampshire Road, Suite A, Westlake Village, CA 91361, USA;*

*Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: info@shier.com*

CONTACT Europe and Asia: *Rundel Datentechnik, Rappenstr. 20, 73033 Goeppingen, Germany; Phone: +49 (07161) 14707; Fax: +49 (07161) 24473; E-mail: 100023.2477@compuserve.com*

## Shareware/Freeware

### Freeware Games

The following games were written specifically for the HP 100LX and 200LX Palmtops, or have been adapted for it with specific Palmtop instructions, and so their graphics and strategies are Palmtop-appropriate.

**Blackjack** — BJ.ZIP ■ simulates Vegas-style blackjack where you play against a dealer.

**Dominoes** — DOMINOES.ZIP ■ is version 1.5 of the classic game of Dominoes. Since it was designed just for the Palmtop, the graphics are scaled right and easy to see. The simple interface lets you point at the domino you want to play using the F-keys. With practice, you should be able to beat the computer at least one-third of the time. New to this version is the choice of "Beginner Mode" or "Expert Mode." The program can evaluate your game and offers tips for improvement.

**Yahtzee** — YAHTZEE.ZIP ■ is version 1.1 of the popular Yahtzee game. The game is easy to see as well as to use on the Palmtop. The size of the .EXE file is less than 10K. New to this version is the one hundred point bonus for all Yahtzees after the first one. In this version, only one person plays, trying to score as high as possible.



**FreeCell Solitaire** — FREE-CELL.ZIP [F] version 1.2 lets you arrange stacks of cards in descending order and alternating color, while trying to build up suit foundations using the four "cells" as temporary storage. The game features smart auto-play and a 200-move memory allowing you to back up.

**Klondike solitaire** — KLONDIKE.ZIP [F] is the card game that most folks refer to as simply "solitaire." New to this version are:

- \* Backup using the backspace key, up to 200 moves.
- \* Smart auto-play to the foundations.

\* Move partial stacks of cards if you like.

**Golf** — GOLF.ZIP [F] version 1.6 lets you draw cards graphically, and play by hitting the Function key that aligns with the card you want to play. New to this version is faster card drawing, as well as some other minor improvements.

**42-LX** — 42-LX.ZIP [F] is a bidding-type game similar to bridge, pinochle and spades, except that 42-LX.ZIP is played with dominoes. You bid on how many points you think you and your partner together can catch.

**CONTACT:** *The above seven games are available on The Palmtop Paper ON DISK and also from: Curtis Cameron; E-mail address: FreeWhl44@aol.com, or in the Internet at: <http://users.aol.com/freewhl44/>*

## More shareware/freeware games

### Sokoban

HP-SOK.ZIP [F] is a version of Sokoban written for the HP 100/200LX using the PAL library. It allows the player to create personal game levels. This version corrects an error on one of the game levels and also allows the player to toggle between done and undone levels.

Type: ..... Postcard-ware  
Available: In library 11 of HPHAND on CompuServe or on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Contact: Allan Schoepp, 70314.1400@compuserve.com

### PC Remote Control

PCREMOTE.ZIP [F] is a tiny text-based remote control utility to control one PC from another.

## Update: HP Handheld '96 Conference & Show August 24 & 25, 1996

Door prizes will be given away at the annual HP Handheld '96 Conference and Show, held this year on August 24 & 25 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, located walking distance from Disneyland in Anaheim, California, U.S.A.

The conference will include presentations and discussions on the HP Palmtops, OmniGo organizer and HP calculators. Presentations and discussions will cover general user topics, hardware and programming issues, and include a round table discussion with HP personnel. A vendor show will display handheld related products.

The keynote speaker will be Kheng-Joo Khaw, General Manager of HP's Asia Pacific Personal Computer Division, the division responsible for designing, manufacturing and marketing all HP handheld products, from high-end calculators to HP Palmtops and OmniGo organizers.

Saturday night's conference highlights will include a reception with HP personnel.

### Registration prices:

Advanced — \$99  
At the door — \$150

### Registration contact:

Shier Systems & Software, 920 Hampshire Road, Suite A29, Westlake Village, CA, 91361, U.S.A.; Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; Internet: 75030.3374@compuserve.com

**WEB Site:** Up-to-date conference information will be maintained on the web page at <http://www.shier.com/~hhc96>.

### Program information:

Contact: Attn: Richard Nelson, EduCALC, 27953 Cabot Road, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, USA; Phone: 714-582-2637 ext. 106.



## Add a Printer Port to your HP Palmtop

The capabilities of the HP-Palmtop are now expanded by using Quatech's SPP-100 Parallel/Enhanced Parallel Port PCMCIA card. The SPP-100 adds a new dimension for Palmtop users by adding not only IBM PC parallel port capabilities, but also providing hardware support for the IEEE 1284 bidirectional EPP standard. Besides printer applications, the SPP-100 offers users a needed interface to popular external storage tape drive units.

This Type II card includes a cable which features a standard DSUB-25 for easy connection to external peripherals. A client driver and an enabler program are also provided for customer configuration and use. The SPP-100 is FCC and CE certified and can be purchased directly from Quatech or through its network of international distributors. For further information call 800-553-1170 or 330-434-3154.

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Steve Mitchell  
Middleburg, Indiana

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Like the HP Palmtop? There's plenty of useful information already published. HP 95LX users will especially benefit from thirteen 1991-93 issues, and HP 100LX and HP 200LX users will appreciate the twelve 1994-95 issues. Included is a Subscriber PowerDisk for each year.

## *The HP Palmtop Paper On Disk*

**Get a supplemental disk containing all the great freeware and shareware you read about in each *The HP Palmtop Paper*.**

This supplement to *The HP Palmtop Paper* also contains detailed information from advertisers plus the full text of *The HP Palmtop Paper* for text search.

**Best Tips On Disk: Free or can be ordered separately.**

Each year we compile the best palmtop tips and the best freeware and shareware and put it on two 1.44 Meg floppy disks. Included FREE only with your *The HP Palmtop Paper On Disk* subscription, or can be purchased separately.

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continued on page 49



Type: .....Freeware  
Available: Now in library 9 of HPHAND on CompuServe or on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Contact: Beverly Howard, 75533.1712@compuserve.com

## Windows File Transfer

WINFILER.ZIP [F] facilitates transfer between HP 200LX and Windows 95. The program was written for Win95 only and won't work with Win3.x. The author invites your suggestions.

Type: .....Shareware  
Available: Now in library 9 of HPHAND on CompuServe or on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Contact: Tom Hollenberger, 75667.3323@compuserve.com

## Database Viewer

DBV.ZIP [F] contains DB-View, a database viewer for GDB/PDB database files, having the same graphic environment as the built-in database application. DB-View can run in DOS, and has better searching capabilities. DBView is a freeware PAL application.

Type: .....Freeware  
Available: Now in library 11 of HPHAND on CompuServe or on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Contact: Harry Konstas, 72540.620@compuserve.com

## PAL Text Editor

PE.ZIP [F] contains PalEdit, a PAL based text editor that has almost the same look and feel of the built-in Memo editor. It does not support formatted texts, but is much more powerful as a text editor. It handles multiple open files, unlimited file length, lines that are up to 32000 characters, binary file editing, and incremental searches. It supports most EMAC commands and is expandable through DOS filters.

Type: .....Freeware  
Available: Now in library 11 of HPHAND on CompuServe or on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Contact: Andreas Garzotto, 73064.1657@compuserve.com

## DOS Commands for Graphics

PCX\_VIEW.ZIP [F] contains simple DOS commands to display .PCX graphics. It provides simple utilities to crop and invert images. All were written by Brian Steel in 8086 assembler code, so they are very small and efficient.

Type: .....Freeware  
Available: Now in library 11 of HPHAND on CompuServe or on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Contact: Brian Steel, 100012.3141@compuserve.com

## Scientific Calculator

UCALC.ZIP [F] contains Ultimate Calculator v3.0c graphic scientific calculator. It includes an expression evaluator with many built-in functions, operators, numerical notations, and modes. You can input user variables and functions. It solves and plots equations, does integrations and summations. Supports hex and binary notations. Radian and degree modes included. Has a resizable TSR window. Online help available.

Type: .....Shareware  
Available: Now in library 11 of HPHAND on CompuServe or on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Contact: Daniel Corbier, 75541.1523@compuserve.com

## CONFERENCES, UPGRADES and UPDATES

### PDA Forum August 21

The Second Annual Utility Industry Handheld and PDA Forum will cover field automa-

## New HP Web site gives consumers real-life look at handheld-computing advantages

(Browse [www.hp.com/handheld](http://www.hp.com/handheld) for HP handheld information.)

Hewlett-Packard has launched a new Web site dedicated to its line of handheld computers and calculators. The new Web site is based on the theme of "Power in the Palm of Your Hand." The site provides consumers with detailed product information, downloadable software and applets, while creatively illustrating how HP's handheld computers can enhance the mobile professional's work and personal life. HP uses a day in the life of a mobile professional to show, with illustrated examples, how consumers can use handheld computers in ways they may not have considered.

"We've packed this new Web site with useful information for consumers to better understand how handheld computers can make their lives easier," said Kheng Joo Khaw, General Manager of HP's Asia Pacific Personal Computer Division. "Whether they currently own a handheld computer or are considering a purchase in the near future, they will find our Web site useful — it provides a real-life look at how HP's line of electronic organizers, Palmtop PCs and calculators can assist them in their daily lives — whether at home, in the office or anywhere in between."

In addition to obtaining detailed product information and specifications from the new Web site, consumers can register their HP handheld products on-line, receive technical assistance and documentation, and read customer success stories and the latest press releases. Also included on the Web site are industry awards, an animated on-line product demo, a calculator shopping guide and hypertext links that take consumers to product reviews, articles and other Web sites that support HP's handheld products.

tion in the Utility Industry, August 21-23, 1996 at the Marriott, Inner Harbor Baltimore, MD, U.S.A.

The Forum is designed to let Utility Industry professionals share the successes, failures and opportunities of field automation with peers and the vendor community. Vendors will also have exhibit tables.

Pricing: .....\$995  
(For 2 and 1/2 days. 25% off for four or more people with the same affiliation)

CONTACT: World Market Strategies LTD/PDA Inc., 4309 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, USA; Phone: 415- 252-8008; Fax: 415-252-8055; E-mail: [jlhormann@wmsltd.com](mailto:jlhormann@wmsltd.com)

### Free copy of Software Carousel with 4MB Upgrade

Notebook Supply Warehouse (NSW) is offering a

free copy of Software Carousel with every 4 MB upgrade for the HP 200LX. Software Carousel is a powerful multi-task software package which eliminates the need for EMM drivers.

Pricing: .....\$299  
Includes memory upgrade/Software Carousel and installation by NSW.  
Self-install .....\$249  
Including 1 connector (only recommended for those with high technical skill.)

CONTACT: Notebook Supply Warehouse, 13700 Alton Parkway #154-281, Irvine, CA 92718, USA; Phone: 800-566-6832 or 714-753-8810; Fax: 714-753-8812.

### Websters Not Available

The Websters Spell Checker sold by Thaddeus Computing has been sold out and is no longer available.



# User to User

## *E-mail is the next "killer app;" Why the HP 700LX; The HP Palmtop Paper looks at the World Wide Web.*

By Hal Goldstein

I spent much of June traveling and attending Palmtop-related conferences. First to London to attend an OmniGo 700LX communicator developer's conference. Then to Chicago to attend the American Booksellers Convention and promote our book *PC in your Pocket*. Finally I traveled to New York and visited the PC EXPO computer show. I came away with the following three conclusions:

1. E-mail is the current "killer" application.
2. Wireless communications is finally about ready to take off.
3. *The HP Palmtop Paper* better get its Web site up ... and soon.

### **E-mail: The "killer" application**

Ever since the VisiCalc spreadsheet application brought the Apple II to corporate America, the computer industry has been on the look out for "killer apps." A killer app is a software application that many people need and results in people buying computer hardware.

The Internet with its information, innovation, and glitter will be responsible for the sale of many new computers. However, it is e-mail that will help universalize computer and modem sales. (Actually it is the Internet that provides a common protocol that lets everyone talk to each other. No matter the source of an e-mail address — internal corporate e-mail, America Online, CompuServe, or Internet, — we can send each other messages.)

"What's your e-mail address?" has become a common query. E-mail is inexpensive and gives us easy access to one another no matter the time zone. It allows for quick response, but we choose when to respond.

Businesses large and small are more productive and effective using e-mail. For example, we implemented an internal cc:MAIL system for our small business of 18 people. The result is much freer communications and a better flow of information. We hooked up our cc:MAIL system to the outside world through our local Internet service provider. Now any of our people can be in touch with anyone in the outside world with an e-mail address. Clearing up subscription problems with a subscriber in Hong Kong or Paris becomes much easier. Communicating with HP Singapore is almost effortless despite the time and geographical distance.

There are compelling personal as well as business reasons to have an e-mail address. One of our employees can now easily communicate with her son in the military in Bosnia. My wife has family in Uruguay we hope to be in touch with. Even my young son wants an e-mail address to talk to his buddies at school.

E-mail as a killer app means more than desktop sales. There are important implications of this e-mail phenomenon for the HP Palmtop and for wireless communications. Getting and sending e-mail on the road becomes increasingly vital. Doing so on a small

device such as a Palmtop means not having to lug around a portable computer. Being able to send and receive e-mail wirelessly without having to make a physical connection using a phone cord can save one's sanity and even one's back. (Those who have traveled with a bag of connectors and couplers and struggled moving heavy hotel furniture to make the physical connection know what I mean).

HP is quite aware of the potential of the wireless modem / HP Palmtop combination. Almost since the HP 95LX was introduced in 1991, HP encouraged such solutions as RadioMail and a wireless serial modem by offering a special connecting cradle on its price list. That combination helped customers from airports to ballparks.

However, relatively high monthly charges and coverage problems have impeded the proliferation of various wireless / Palmtop combinations. As prices fall, coverage improves, and e-mail becomes more universal, sales will increase.

### **Wireless solutions**

The London conference on the OmniGo 700LX communicator woke me up to the importance of wireless technologies and the convergence of phones and computers. The OmniGo 700LX depends on the digital cellular GSM network, available in Europe and parts of Asia but not in the U.S. The OmniGo 700LX is actually a fusion of the HP 200LX and a Nokia cellu-



lar phone with fax software and additional hardware.

Given different modem standards, anyone who has tried to get e-mail traveling in Europe might view the advance of wireless technology as a minor miracle. Europe is well-covered with cellular networks. Prices of service have come down such that you see teenagers walking London streets with cellular phones. All these forces are converging to make the OmniGo 700LX the right product at the right time and place.

One of the reasons HP selected Nokia over the competition is Short Message Service (SMS). SMS allows 160-character messages sent to any GSM-compatible phone. You can use the Palmtop or a phone operator to send the message. In addition, the HP OmniGo 700LX communicator lets you create, send, receive and forward faxes wirelessly. You can also, of course, connect to your company network to access e-mail or transfer files.

### What about the 700LX and the U.S?

It is unclear whether the HP OmniGo 700LX and the underlying GSM network that supports it will be universally available in the U.S. any time soon. We understand the GSM network is available in the Washington, DC area, in Hawaii, and in parts of California. HP will probably make the OmniGo 700LX available in these areas sometime by the end of this year.

In the meantime HP and strategic partners are pursuing other solutions with more universal coverage. (See the review of the Wynd, AllPoints combination on page 19 of this issue.) This solution is said to include 90% of the U.S. population and prices are coming down.

Unfortunately, we are based in a small rural town in the central part of the U.S. This means that Wynd and other coverage is unavailable to us. That means we need to depend on you, our reader, to report back on what you like

and don't like about going wireless with the Palmtop. In the meantime we trust the information provided in this issue on wireless products will get you started.

### The Web - Where are we?

At all three June shows I attended, the Web was an important topic. Most everybody agrees that the Internet is the future, a whole new kind of human interconnectivity. Internet technologies and possibilities evolve monthly. As a publishing company, we should have a site.

In general, no matter what the product or project, our challenge as a small company is to provide a useful quality product or service while making a profit as soon as possible. There is not much room for expensive mistakes or testing. We have to do whatever we do right the first time (or at least the second time).

You, our *HP Palmtop Paper* customer, tend to be on the leading technical edge, which means it is likely that you spend some time on the Net. Our challenge is to design a web site that you find useful, that you want to come back to, and that pays for itself. That means our site probably needs to provide a combination of Palmtop knowledge, information about Palmtop products, Palmtop freeware and shareware, and links to other Palmtop sites. At the same time it must have a strong interactive marketing element to it to sell our products and services such as our magazine, our disks, our CD and our book.

Creating a web site has finally moved to the top of my list. We should have something up by the end of the year. Your input, feedback, and help will be most welcome.

We certainly live in exciting and changing times.

## The MagicRAM Flash Storage Solution



- ✓ Low cost, high capacity storage
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- ✓ Faster than ATA Flash Cards
- ✓ Write protect switch
- ✓ Withstands 1000G of shock
- ✓ Rugged stainless steel covers for maximum protection
- ✓ 4MB to 80MB using pre-loaded Stacker data compression
- ✓ Lifetime warranty

2MB Flash Card	(up to 2MB)	\$89.00
4MB Flash Card	(up to 4MB)	\$129.00
8MB Flash Card	(up to 8MB)	\$179.00
16MB Flash Card	(up to 16MB)	\$279.00
20MB Flash Card	(up to 20MB)	\$349.00
40MB Flash Card	(up to 40MB)	\$549.00
80MB Flash Card	(up to 80MB)	\$1199.00

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Internet: <http://www.magicram.com>

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# Wireless Communications with the HP Palmtop

*It's getting so easy to send and receive e-mail on your Palmtop you no longer need to be close to a phone!*

By David Shier

I had just used my cellular phone to call for a tow truck when my Skytel 2-way pager started to buzz. Tom Rundel and I were returning to Southern California from a PDA developer's conference in San Mateo (Northern California). My car had been overheating on the way up to the conference and finally broke down. Two friends in a separate car (Dave Marsh and Richard Nelson from EduCALC) had left after us. They were aware of the overheating and Dave used his Skytel 2-Way pager and HP 200LX to send a message to see how we were doing.

I sent a reply telling them that we were stuck in Salinas and waiting for a tow to the Ford dealer. An hour later, I had just finished signing the paper work when I heard a familiar voice call out my name. I turned around to see Dave and Richard. Fortunately, the car only took an hour or two to fix, but if it had been more serious, Dave and Richard would have given us a ride home.

That's the way wireless messaging is supposed to work. Unfortunately, the reality for many people is that they never get a chance to enjoy such events because the current wireless market seems to be a confusing collection of "buzzwords" and options. How can you possibly select a system for your-

self without getting a graduate degree in wireless technology?

Since I found myself in the same situation, I will attempt to sort all this out for you in this article. I've included a glossary of wireless terms, but you shouldn't need them all in order to select the system that's right for you.

## Types of wireless systems

While there are dozens of wireless communications options available for your Palmtop, we can easily separate them into five categories: One-way pagers, two-way pagers, cellular-compatible modems, digital cellular systems, and finally radio modems.

Within these five major categories, you will find numerous vendors, each offering unique services and pricing options. However, by first choosing which of the five basic categories is right for you, it will be much easier to

make a decision among the vendors in that category.

## One-way pagers

By far, the simplest of the wireless devices are alpha-numeric pagers, which come in models that can be connected to the Palmtop via the serial port or as PC Cards. Pagers that can connect to the Palmtop all support receiving text messages. These messages can be sent using software you install on an office PC, via e-mail or by calling the service provider and dictating the message to an operator.

Hewlett Packard's Starlink card is an example of this type of device. Pagers are inexpensive to purchase (or lease) and the monthly service charges are typically as low as \$20 for local service and less than \$100 for national service complete with news, sports and stock portfolio messaging.

Pagers have other advantages.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Shier is a former software engineer and marketing/sales director in the electronics industry. He is now President of Shier Systems & Software, Inc., and a principal in D&A Software, Inc. Together these companies develop and market products and applications for the Palmtop computer market. David can be reached at: Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: david@shier.com; Web site: <http://www.shier.com>





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They are simple to operate and most (with the exception of the Starlink card) can display messages without being connected to the Palmtop. Pagers are currently the one practical wireless tool for always getting immediate notification that someone has sent you a message. They are on all the time, and alert you when a message comes in. Because of their size and battery life, it is very easy to carry them with you all the time. Because of this, even if you use another wireless device, you may still want to use a pager to receive notification that you have a new message.

One of the most interesting features of the HP Starlink pager is its ability to receive from your office updates to your Palmtop's Appointment Book. This makes the Starlink worth considering for sales and service representatives that often get schedule changes dictated from the home office.

Of course, pagers have one major disadvantage: they can only receive messages. If you want to reply or originate your own messages, then you will need to use something else.

### **Two-way pagers**

If you like the features of a pager, but would also like to reply, then the two-way pager could be right for you. Currently, the only national two-way pager service is offered by Skytel using the Motorola Tango Pager unit. You can purchase a Skytel/Palmtop Connectivity Kit from Skytel that comes with a special cable to connect the pager to the Palmtop. The kit also includes System-Manager compliant communications software, and a case to hold the Palmtop, pager, cable and a few small accessories — all for less than \$50.00.

The pager can receive alphanumeric messages of up to 512 characters. There are 16 short replies built into the pager which you can send without connecting

to the Palmtop. They include messages such as YES/OK, NO, TRAFFIC DELAY, NEED MORE INFO, etc.. Personally, I think they could have done a better job of selecting the messages: many are redundant and there isn't a THANK YOU reply in the bunch. So if you want to respond to that helpful message which is getting you out of a jam with a friendly 'thanks,' you will have to connect the pager to the Palmtop and write your reply there.

When connected to the Palmtop, you can generate replies of up to 95 characters. Your pager has an Internet address, which is the pager's PIN number with @skytel.com added to the end. This lets anyone on the Internet send you e-mail messages. You can then write a reply to that message and send it wirelessly. Unfortunately, Skytel does not provide a means of entering an arbitrary Internet address, so you can't generate an e-mail message to anyone that hasn't sent you a message first. Also, the return path for replying to messages sent to you are only kept by the Skytel system for a few weeks. After that, you can't send a reply.

Still, even with these limitations, the two-way pager has proven very useful. Even when you don't connect it to the Palmtop, the Tango has features that a normal pager can't duplicate. Most importantly, the Tango sends an acknowledgement when a page is received. If the Skytel network doesn't receive a confirming 'answer-back' from your unit, it will resend the page. This allows someone sending you a page to know that it was received.

One way I use the Tango is to verify that our company's e-mail server is operating properly. We set up a separate e-mail address which automatically forwards messages to my pager. That means that every time a message is received in this address, it is automatically forwarded to my pager. If I want to

check to see if the server is running, I use my pager to send a message to this address. If everything is working, the message is forwarded back to my pager, confirming that the system is operating.

### **Cellular-compatible modems**

Using a conventional modem with a cellular phone seems like a simple solution to wireless communications. All you should have to do is connect your Palmtop to the phone via the modem and use your communications program to log onto your online service. The problem with this approach is that cellular phones don't always provide a continuous signal.

The cellular phone network is divided into "cells." Each cell has one or more transmitter/receiver that handles the calls in a certain geographical area. When you move out of one area and into another, a computer that monitors this switches you to the cell of the area you are moving into. The problem is that sometimes there is a momentary loss of signal and this can cause the modem to drop the connection.

Standard modems are not designed to tolerate a signal loss. Some cellular phone users have successfully connected to online services using their Palmtop, cell phone and standard modem, provided they are stationary.

Cellular-ready modems are designed to tolerate momentary signal loss, but even with these modems, data connections are tenuous at best. Also, unlike other wireless communications methods, when using a cellular phone, you pay by the minute for the connection time. All other wireless systems either charge by the amount of data being transferred, or in some cases provide unlimited usage for a fixed monthly fee. Also, if you move outside of the area serviced by your cellular provider, you will need to pay a roaming



charge (around \$5/day) plus the charges for the calls themselves.

Still, if you already have a cellular phone and a modem for your Palmtop, and you only need wireless communications occasionally, then this might be a cost effective alternative.

One nice feature of using a cellular connection is that you can use the same software and e-mail system that you use with conventional phone lines. This avoids the need for two or more e-mail addresses, which is necessary with the pagers and radio modems (with the exception of the Ricochet modem discussed below.)

### Digital cellular systems: The HP OmniGo 700LX

The 700LX is basically an HP 200LX with a built-in PC card modem and a docking cradle on the top for a Nokia digital cellular

phone. The 700LX provides faxing and e-mail using a feature of GSM digital cellular service known as Short Messaging Service or SMS. This service, and therefore the 700LX itself, is currently available only in Europe and parts of Asia and the Pacific Rim. Because the U.S.A. is currently fighting over competing digital cellular technologies, we don't expect to see the 700LX released here for quite some time.

The HP 700LX has been discussed in previous Palmtop Paper articles, so I won't go into a lot of detail here (see November/-December 95 issue, page 29). However, I will briefly compare the 700LX to the other wireless technologies. The SMS service provides much of the same features of the radio modems, plus the advantage of cellular voice service. According the Gilles Kohl, incoming SMS messages are first stored on the Nokia phone, and then

transferred, on the push of a button, to the Palmtop. This allows you to receive messages even when the Palmtop is off. The number of messages that your phone can store is limited, but only if you don't retrieve them using the Palmtop.

On the Palmtop, messages are stored in a database. You can also export to file (making archiving of old messages easy). As soon as you retrieve SMS to the Palmtop, they get deleted in the phone, making room for more incoming messages.

A nice feature of the OmniGo 700LX is the ability to automatically dial a phone number selected from the Palmtop's PhoneBook application. Since GSM and SMS services are not currently available in the USA, it's difficult to compare the cost of using the 700LX to the radio modem services available from Ardis and RAM Mobile Data. There are a few cities in the nation where GSM service is becoming available, specifically Washington,

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## Glossary of wireless terms

Below is a glossary of terms you may come across as you read and learn about wireless communications.

**Baud** — A measure of the speed at which a modem communicates. Although there are some subtle differences, generally baud and bps are now used interchangeably. The term Baud is actually obsoleted by bps.

**bps** (bits per second) — The number of “bits” (ones and zeros) transmitted per second, which can generally be divided by ten to get the character transmission rate. That is, 9,600bps means about 960 bytes or characters per second.

**CDMA** (Code Division Multiple Access) — One of two digital technologies being tested by cellular service providers as a possible eventual replacement to the current analog system of cellular call transmission. Digital technology allows data to be transmitted in bursts intermixed with voice calls. However, digital cellular services require special hardware (phones and/or modems) for data connections. (See also GSM and TDMA.)

**CDPD** (Cellular Digital Packet Data) — A method of transmitting short bursts of data in between voice calls on the analog cellular network. Developed by a consortium of cellular carriers, CDPD is commercially available in only a few areas in the U.S.A. CDPD requires special radio modems and software.

**E-mail** — Electronic Mail is the method of sending information electronically as opposed to using pen, paper and stamps. Wireless systems allow you to receive, and in most cases send, e-mail to anyone with an address on the Internet.

**Internet** — A large international communication network that connects government agencies, technical universities and commercial customers. The Internet is currently growing at more than 30% per month. The Internet includes access to e-mail, newsgroup bulletin boards, and the World

Wide Web. For wireless communications, the most important part of the Internet is electronic mail.

**ISP** (Internet Service Provider) — A company that provides customers access to the Internet. RadioMail and Wynd are examples of ISP's for wireless Internet service.

**GSM** (Global System for Mobiles or sometimes Group Special Mobile) — The European and Asian digital cellular system standard. This is the technology used by the HP OmniGo 700 communicator. It is a subset of TDMA.

**K** (Kilo, or one thousand). In data communications, 1K is actually 1,024 which is an even power of 2. Specifically 2 to the 10th power.

**Modem** (MODulator/DEModulator) — The device that converts data into tones, and back again, to allow transmission over standard phone lines. The term has been expanded to include radio modems and other devices which simply allow a computer to send and receive remote data (even when no actual modulation may take place.)

**SMS** (Short Messaging System) — The data transmission service used in the OmniGo 700LX to send and receive e-mail and faxes. SMS is an optional service provided by GSM cellular companies.

**TDMA** (Time Division Multiple Access) — One of two digital technologies being tested by cellular service providers as a possible eventual replacement to the current analog system of cellular call transmission in the U.S.A.

**WWW** (World Wide Web, or simply “The Web”) — A part of the Internet which contains multi-media documents that have links from one to another, making the relationship of information that is common between documents easily accessible and completely independent of physical location. The data on the Web usually contains pictures (and sometimes sound and video) in addition to text. Some wireless services allow you to retrieve the text portion of Web pages.

DC and San Diego, California. However, unless your mobile messaging needs are confined within your local area, the radio modem services appear to be your only viable alternative for the foreseeable future.

### Radio modems

I really don't care for the term 'radio modem.' To me, this seems to imply a modem that you can use the same way you use a regular modem, but only wirelessly. With

the exception of the Ricochet modem (discussed below), this is not the case. Radio modems communicate only with their own special services. There are two major radio networks in the USA: Ardis and RAM Mobile Data. While these



two systems are not compatible with each other, they are very similar in function. Both allow you to communicate from one radio modem to another. Also, both offer optional services that provide you an Internet address and news stock quotes or even access to text from World Wide Web sites. These added services are from RadioMail or WyndMail.

Radio modems are available as external units (affectionately known as 'bricks') or as PC Cards from Motorola and MegaHertz.

The Motorola Personal Messenger 100D is used with the Ardis network, while the MegaHertz AllPoints Modem works with RAM Mobile Data. The two networks have slightly different coverage areas, so it's a good idea to check the service availability in the areas you most often visit.

A great advantage of these radio modems is their ease of use. There's no logging in, roaming, no access numbers, simply plug the modem into the Palmtop and run the RadioMail software. If you are within range of the network — regardless of where you are in the country — your e-mail will be sent to you automatically and you can send your own. No other system is easier. If you are out of the service area, or if the modem is off, the network will save your messages and send them to you when you turn the modem back on. Thus, you never lose your e-mail.

A new feature of the RadioMail service is a text-based Web server. By sending the Web page address (known as the URL) to the Radio-Web e-mail address, you will get an e-mail message in return that contains the text from the Web Page. Of course, you only see plain text without any of the graphics, and the speed and cost prohibit this method from being practical for 'web surfing' (moving aimlessly from link to link) but it is very useful for retrieving specific information wirelessly.

## THE RICOCHET SYSTEM

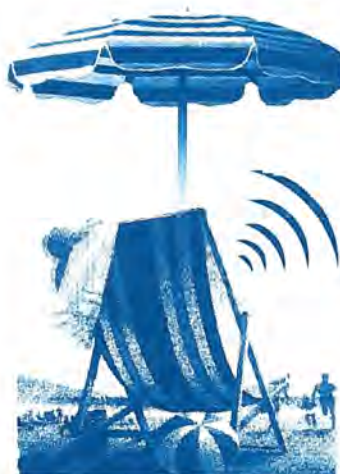
A new player in the wireless business is the Ricochet modem. This is an external modem that can wirelessly communicate using standard software. This is a distinct difference from the other radio modems, which require proprietary software to run. Instead, the Ricochet modem accepts standard 'AT' commands that make it look like a normal modem to the Palmtop and the software.

The Ricochet modem gets its name from the way the wireless network is set up: Your modem

communicates to a transmitter/-receiver mounted on a near-by street light pole. This unit then relays your communications to the next pole-mounted unit, until it finds its way to one connected to the wired network. This has the advantage that the pole-mounted units don't need any expensive wiring in order to bounce your signal to the next one. The disadvantage is that the Ricochet system needs lots of these pole-mounted units — one every half mile or so. This means that the Ricochet is not practical for rural areas.

Still, the Ricochet is fast (up to

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28.8Kbps, but more typically about 9600bps) and can be used with software that the others can't. For example, I simply configured our acCIS program to dial the special CompuServe access number provided by Ricochet, and specified COM Port 1, then I was able to wirelessly connect to CompuServe and collect my e-mail and send out replies.

Another unique feature of the Ricochet modem is that there are no connect-time charges! For a flat monthly fee you get the modem and unlimited access to the Internet.

Unfortunately, with its NiMH rechargeable battery and cable, the Ricochet modem is heavy, plus the cabling needed to connect it to the Palmtop is unwieldy. Of course, if you're a regular reader of the Palmtop Paper, it won't surprise you to know that my company (SHIER Systems) is now making cable to directly connect the Ricochet modems to the HP Palmtop.

The only other disappointment is the coverage area for Ricochet. Currently, they have 'wired' a number of university campuses around the USA, and most of the San Francisco Bay area. Seattle Washington is scheduled for late 1996 and Washington, DC in 1997.

However, for those lucky enough to be within Ricochet's coverage area, its system and the Palmtop can be a very liberating combination. A case in point is Ms. Anne Mitchell, an attorney in Palo Alto, California who runs Father's Rights and Equity Exchange (F.R.E.E.), a national father's rights advocacy group.

According to Mitchell, "The portability and versatility of the 200LX with the Ricochet wireless modem has really freed me from being chained to the desk and computer." Because the vast majority of the work Mitchell does takes place

in e-mail communications with others all around the country, often requiring nearly instant response, she said "I had days where I was in front of my computer for, quite literally, 16 hours straight. Now I can go wherever I want, and always have immediate access to my e-mail."

Mitchell's enthusiasm for her HP 200LX and Ricochet modem is clearly evident, as she told me "I can finally leave the office for an afternoon, and even go out to lunch! I affectionately refer to the local Starbucks as "my branch office."

### **The ideal solution**

With all these competing technologies, the question remains "Which is the best?" The answer greatly depends on your needs and location. Personally, I feel a combination of a conventional alphanumeric pager — to provide an immediate alert of an incoming message, and a radio modem — to read the full text and write replies or faxes, is the most usable at this point in time.

What I'd like to see in the future is a unit the size of the Tango two-way pager (or even smaller) with the features of the Ricochet modem — especially the unlimited Internet access for a flat fee. Such a unit could replace my pager, modem and radio modem, and could clip to my belt. Of course it would need coverage in most locations around the country and even around the world — perhaps using satellite communications. I hope that such a device is not too many years away. However, now that I've had a taste of what wireless communications can offer today, I would never consider waiting for something new. While each type of technology has its limitations, they all provide

means of staying in touch and being productive, whenever and wherever the need arises — and after all, isn't that why we have these wonderful Palmtops in the first place?

### **Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article**

*All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.*

**Skytel 2-way Wireless Pager—\$60/month**  
CONTACT: Skytel, P.O. Box 2469, Jackson, MS 39225-2469, USA; Phone: 800-395-5260; Fax: 601-944-1300; W.W.W: <http://www.skytel.com>

**Motorola Tango Pager**  
*Pager provided by Skytel, included in monthly price (see above).*

**SkyTel/HP Palmtop Connectivity Cable — \$49.95**  
CONTACT: Skytel, P.O. Box 2469, Jackson, MS 39225-2469, USA; Phone: 800-395-5260; Fax: 601-944-1300; W.W.W: <http://www.skytel.com>

**Ardis Radio Network**  
CONTACT: ARDIS, 300 Knightsbridge Parkway, Lincolnshire, IL 60060, USA; Phone: 800-494-1728 or 847-913-1215; Fax: 847-913-4700.

**RAM Mobile Data**  
*See Products Mentioned section in article "The AllPoints Wireless PC Card and RadioMail Service," page 19)*

**RadioMail — \$Varies**  
CONTACT: RadioMail, 2600 Campus Dr., Suite 175, San Mateo, CA 94403, USA; Phone: 800-597-6245 Dept. NT3; Fax: 415-286-7805; E-mail: [info@radiomail.net](mailto:info@radiomail.net); W.W.W: <http://www.radiomail.net>

**Motorola Personal Messenger 100D — \$499**  
CONTACT: *Contact your local Motorola reseller.*

**AllPoints Wireless Modem**  
*(See Products Mentioned section in article "The AllPoints Wireless PC Card and RadioMail Service," page 19)*

**Ricochet Wireless Modem — \$Varies**  
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# The AllPoints Wireless PC Card and RadioMail Service

*The AllPoints wireless PC Card and RadioMail service get your message across — Wirelessly!*

By Mike Fine

You're sitting in the Captain's chair on the bridge of Star Trek's Starship Enterprise and realize that you need to have an immediate meeting with your senior officers. You tap the small Communications badge on your chest, a subtle beep indicates that you may speak. You announce the time and place of the meeting and the individuals involved. As you walk to the turbo-lift that will take you to the meeting room, multiple responses of "Yes Captain!" come from the Com badge's tiny speaker, indicating that all are on their way.

O.K.... so our technology has not quite reached the point of the technology displayed in the popular Star Trek science fiction series, set 500 years in the future. But the way technology is advancing, we'll be there a lot sooner than 500 years from now.

One of the products that turns your HP Palmtop into a slightly larger communications device with the capabilities of the Star Trek Com badge is the Megahertz AllPoints Wireless PC Card. You'll also need a messaging service and can use either the RadioMail wireless messaging service or Wynd Communications' WyndMail with the AllPoints/Palmtop combo. With these combos you can send

and receive e-mail, send faxes, and people can send you messages through a dispatch service.

The AllPoints is a Type II PC Card built to operate on the RAM Mobile Data Wireless Network. RAM's service is based on the Mobitex technology which was initially developed by the Ericsson company. This technology uses a network of radio towers around the country.

[Editor's note: For more on the AllPoints/Wynd combination, see the article "AllPoints Card/WyndMail Service" on page 22 of this issue.]

## No Roaming Charges

Unlike cellular, the radio service has no roaming restrictions. With



AllPoints Wireless Type II PC Card

cellular service, the more expensive "roaming charges" accumulate as soon as you move out of your designated "home" area. The RAM Mobile Data Wireless network has no additional charges associated with when and where you connect. Whether you are on the bus going to work or sitting in a meeting, you have access to your e-mail. The RAM network covers 92% of the population of the United States and includes all the major metropolitan areas. Pull out your HP Palmtop and get your e-mail in Minneapolis on Monday, in Dallas on Wednesday, and fax a friend from Philadelphia on Friday.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Fine is a technology "junkie." In his position as Beta Test Supervisor for US Robotics-Megahertz, Mike has had the opportunity to explore exciting new developments in the mobile and wireless arenas. In addition, he has been a technical writer for Iomega Corporation and sold shoes for Nordstrom. Currently he is nursing an addiction to the X-Files and Newcastle Brown Ale. Mike's e-mail address is [mfine@axxis.com](mailto:mfine@axxis.com).



## WIRELESS: AllPoints

The AllPoints' lightweight, portable PCMCIA Type II design fits conveniently into the HP Palmtop's PC Card slot. Its small, 2-inch retractable gold antenna can be fully extended to 6 inches when you want to connect to the RAM network, and conveniently stores flat when the unit is not in use. Since the card uses a standard SMB connection (the industry standard for antenna connectors), you can remove the antenna and replace it with a more sensitive antenna if you are in an area with less than perfect coverage.

### Low Power Consumption

You don't have to worry about AllPoints draining your HP Palmtop batteries. It comes with its own 9-volt NiCd rechargeable battery, which almost eliminates any draw on your AA batteries (the draw is only 12mA (milli-Amps)). The NiCd battery gives the AllPoints up to 30 hours of operation, and you can get up to 40 hours on a non-rechargeable alkaline battery. This allows a generous amount of sending and receiving messages before you need to recharge or replace the AllPoints' battery. And since the card uses the PCMCIA (PC Card) design, a rechargeable battery can be charged while AllPoints is in a Palmtop that is connected to an AC power adapter.

### Designed small for your HP Palmtop

The AllPoints design works well with the HP 200LX. Installed, the card adds 2.25 inches to the length and half an inch to the height of your HP Palmtop (see photo on previous page). The width of the card is less than the width of the Palmtop. The card works well in your palm or on a desktop with the antenna extended vertically.

## Running RadioMail & WyndMail software on your HP 200LX

Once the RadioMail or WyndMail communications software is installed on your Palmtop, you'll need to modify your Palmtop's AUTOEXEC.BAT file to configure your Palmtop for PC Card support. Open AUTOEXEC.BAT in Memo and remove "REM" from in front of the line beginning with "CIC." Save the file, insert the AllPoints into the slot and reboot your Palmtop by pressing **CTRL-ALT-DEL**. Now open the RadioMail or WyndMail software and it will immediately access the RAM network and start downloading any mail you have waiting.

The RadioMail & WyndMail servers support 'store and forward' messaging, which means that RadioMail & WyndMail stores your messages until you signal them to download the messages to your address. You can also choose to have RadioMail or WyndMail automatically forward your e-mail to another destination. To save money, the best way to send messages is to write them off line and upload them when you are ready to send them.

### RadioMail features

The RadioMail software allows you to easily access e-mail addresses from its built-in phonebook (not the Palmtop's PhoneBook). RadioMail's extensive folder system can store up to 500 messages, including unfinished messages for future use. In addition, RadioMail lets you add personalized signatures or pre-written text to your messages. Once installed, the program consumes about 220K of your Palmtop's memory.

**Faxing** — Compose a message as you would an e-mail, but replace the e-mail address with a fax number. Send it and it's forwarded to the fax number you list.

## Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article

*All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.*

### Megahertz AllPoints

#### Wireless PC Card — \$499

Contact: U.S. Robotics Mobile Communications Corporation, 605 N., 5600 W. (P.O. Box 16020), Salt Lake City, UT 84116, USA; Phone: 800-527-8677 or 801-320-7000; Fax: 801-320-6022.

### RAM Mobile

#### Data Service — \$Varies

Contact: RAM Mobile Data, 10 Woodbridge Center Dr., Woodbridge, NJ 07095, USA; Phone: 800-726-3210 or 908-602-5500; Fax: 908-602-5495; E-mail: [raminfo@ram.com](mailto:raminfo@ram.com); Web: <http://www.ram-wireless.com>

RadioMail's Custom Fax Messaging feature lets you add your own custom fax cover sheet headers and pre-set fax specifications. This allows you to personalize your faxes and create a more professional image.

**Dispatch Service** — If you are one of those people who is never near a phone, friends or colleagues can call important messages into the RadioMail Message Center. The information is typed into text by operators and immediately sent to you. This is an excellent solution for contacts who don't have e-mail or are away from the office and need to get a critical message sent to you quickly.

### WyndMail features

Please see the article beginning on page 22 "AllPoints Card/WyndMail Service" for a description of WyndMail features.



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### **Beyond limitations**

The AllPoints, the HP 200LX and either RadioMail or WyndMail are an excellent combination, but these wireless solutions have their limitations. The most obvious issue is the limited amount of available HP Palmtop memory. Since the AllPoints card does not have any memory storage space of its own, and it uses the HP Palmtop's only available Type II PC Card slot (there is no place for that handy SRAM card), you are restricted to using the built-in memory on the HP Palmtop.

[Editor's note: Some companies offer "upgrades" that will increase the

200LX's internal memory to 4MB, but these upgrades are not supported by HP. For more information, see Vol.5, No.2, (March/April) 1996, pages 18 and 22.]

To help overcome this limitation the RadioMail and WyndMail software can be set to keep messages to a minimum size, and messages can also be forwarded automatically to another destination as mentioned earlier. Your HP Palmtop can comfortably handle a message 25K in size, about two and a half typed pages. Another issue is the insertion and removal of the card. The Palmtop is not designed for quick swapping of PC Cards.

Insertion of the AllPoints card needs to be performed while the unit is off!

We're not quite at the level of the Star Trek Communications badge, but we're getting close. The RadioMail/WyndMail features along with the Megahertz AllPoints card turns your HP 200LX into a rather large, but still portable communications badge. It's a little big yet to stick on your Starfleet uniform, but it will slip in your pocket and let you send a fax. I've never seen anyone on the Star Trek send a fax!



# AllPoints Card/WyndMAIL Service

*Wireless messaging solution for the HP Palmtop.*

By Rich Hall

**H**P just announced that as of September 1, 1996 a test program will be run through selected HP dealers that will offer an integrated wireless messaging solution for the HP Palmtop. The system includes the HP 200LX, a Megahertz AllPoints Wireless PC Card, and WyndMail messaging service operating over the RAM Mobile Data Mobitex network. The WyndMail messaging software will be configured for the HP Palmtop and the system will allow Palmtop users to easily send and receive e-mail, faxes and paging wirelessly.

The previous article by Mike Fine describes the AllPoints Wireless PC Card and its use with the RadioMail and WyndMail wireless messaging services. The WyndMail/AllPoints system offers features that include the ability to:

☐ Send and receive wireless Internet e-mail.

☐ Send a fax message from the Palmtop to anywhere in the world, and access a personal library of electronically stored documents that can be merged with your fax.

☐ Send and receive paging information; operator dispatch to the 200LX is available. Create your own paging message on the 200LX and send it to any common paging network.

☐ Send text-to-speech and speech-to-text messages. When you send an e-mail message using this option it transmits the message to the recipient over phone lines in a computer-generated voice.

☐ Filter messages so that you receive certain messages immediately and have others held by WyndMail for retrieval at a more convenient time (filter by size, content, or sender).

☐ Re-route your e-mail to any other WyndMail Internet address (useful for when you are on the road).

☐ Access WyndMail service via a standard modem. This lets you access e-mail from a standard phone line when you are out of wireless transmission/reception range, or the wireless modem is not available. It is a more cost effective way to download e-mail and larger files. HP recommends that you use your AC adapter when using this dial-up mode.

☐ Attach files to e-mail, allowing you to send and receive spreadsheets, database updates and other critical information.

☐ Access e-mail addresses in your Palmtop's PhoneBook. Modify PhoneBook and add a category called "Internet." The PhoneBook's Internet listings will appear in the Wynd address book.

As mentioned earlier, the integrated solution will be available from selected HP dealers September 1, 1996. Wynd Communications will make the Palmtop configured WyndMail software available July 15. Contact WyndMail if additional information is required and mention the Hewlett-Packard Wireless Communications Bundle.

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### Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article

*All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.*

#### Integrated WyndMail/AllPoints /200LX wireless solution — \$varies

The price of this integrated solution varies, depending on the hardware you already have and how much you use the service.

For more information on the integrated system, contact: Wynd Communications, 4251 S. Higuera, Bldg. 800, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, USA; Phone: 800-549-9800 or 805-781-6000; Fax: 805-781-6001; Web: <http://www.wynd.net/wynd>.



# Communicating Wirelessly with the HP 200LX

*There are a number of wireless services that work with the Palmtop — how do you know which one is right for you?*

By F. P. Nagle

Ever since I first had the HP 95LX, I've looked for the "perfect" communications system. The 95LX provided me with the ability to use an external modem to connect to a phone jack and communicate with the computer systems at work and with CompuServe. It also gave me some Internet e-mail capabilities. This was a big step up from having to use a desktop or a "luggable" computer for these functions, but the Palmtop's serial port was not 100% compatible with a standard serial port and the Palmtop could not connect with all modems.

The HP 100LX and 200LX improved on the communications ability of the Palmtop, and came with a more standard serial port that worked with a wider range of external modems. In addition, the 100/200LX came with a more standard PC card slot that could accept a wide range of PC Card modems. It became easier to use faster, more portable modems with the HP Palmtop, but you still had to physically connect up to a phone line.

## Wireless communications and the HP Palmtop

During the past year and a half I've been "beta" testing wireless com-

munications software with the Palmtop. I first tested an Ericsson Mobidem (wireless modem) along with a wireless e-mail software and service from Wynd Communications. The Mobidem is a small, external wireless modem that is used primarily with laptop and desktop systems, but also works with the Palmtop.

Wynd was developing the System Manager compliant wireless communications software for use on the HP 200LX. I approached them at a conference held in San Jose, California and indicated my willingness to work with them on any beta tests they had in mind. I purchased the Mobidem modem, and was provided beta software by Wynd. Now I was wireless!

I normally received my e-mail via Microsoft Mail on my desktop computer at work. I was able to use an add-in product with my desktop to re-direct incoming mail to my wireless account. I had my mail

forwarded to my Wynd account, excluding messages with attachments. I excluded attachments since they tended to be spreadsheets or Word documents. These documents are very large and take a lot of time to transmit, costing me more in service charges. In addition, I rarely need them on my Palmtop. This setup worked quite well, and provided me with access to e-mail anywhere, anytime.

In addition to my full time job, my wife and I have a financial services business. In the financial services business it is important to stay on top of market information to provide up-to-date information on investments. I was able to subscribe to a stock quote service on the Internet (contact [www.quote.com](http://www.quote.com)). This service provides closing prices sent automatically at day's end. It also will alert me when the prices of specific stocks reach high or low "trigger" values that I preset. In one particular instance it



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Frank P. Nagle is IT Development Manager at Hewlett-Packard. He has over 20 years experience in Information Science, spanning telecommunications, semi-conductors, oil and gas, chemical industry, and 4 levels of government. He holds a securities license through the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD), and an insurance license through the state of California. He is also a licensed amateur radio operator. You can contact Frank at: [franknagle@wynd.net](mailto:franknagle@wynd.net)



## WIRELESS: Review

alerted me to one stock in my portfolio reaching a preset high. I called my broker and had him sell a portion of my shares, resulting in a nice profit for me.

Along with this service, I also use another provider for reporting mutual fund closing prices (contact: [www.galt.com](http://www.galt.com)) and receive nightly e-mails on the selected funds in my portfolio, and the portfolios of some of my clients. This allows me to monitor the mutual fund prices, and even send the data to Lotus 1-2-3 on the Palmtop, for graphing and price "trending."

### AllPoints wireless modem smaller and more portable

After using the Ericsson Mobidem for about six months, what had at first seemed so small and portable was looking and feeling more and more like a "brick." I was ready for the next, smaller generation of

wireless modems. In February of 1996 this finally arrived in the form of a Megahertz (US Robotics) AllPoints wireless PC Card.

Allpoints is a modem and wireless transmitter/receiver built into a PC Card. It has an external bulge on the end that sticks out of the Palmtop's card slot. This bulge holds a 9-volt battery that provides power to send and receive messages, and a small antenna. I no longer had to carry a "brick" around!

I currently use Wynd communications with the Allpoints Wireless PC Card and continue to receive nightly data on stocks and mutual funds. In addition, I changed my full-time day job and now work for Hewlett-Packard as a manager in their Software Information and Delivery Organization (SIDO) in Mountain View, CA.

The mail system we use at work is cc:Mail, which also lets me create a set of rules for forwarding

my e-mail to my Palmtop's wireless service. I have e-mail less than 10K in size forwarded to the Palmtop. A message is sent to my Palmtop alerting me when a larger message is waiting on my desktop. This is enough to remind me that I have "work" to do back at my desk. This current system works well, letting me access e-mail no matter where I may travel in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as most major cities in the U.S.

### Wireless "limitations" not so limited after all

My wireless system only provides e-mail access, but quite a bit of information on the Internet can be accessed via e-mail. List servers and automated response systems can provide quick and easy access to a lot of text information. In addition to the nightly transmissions of stock information, I sometimes

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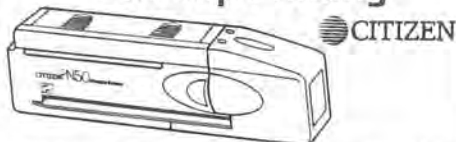
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send a request via e-mail to service@quote.com. I enter the word "quote" on the subject line of the message, along with the ticker symbol for a specific stock. In a few seconds I receive the current trading price for the stock (stock price delayed 15 minutes).

In addition to the "interactive response mode" described in the stock price example in the previous paragraph, I put myself on "lists" which keep me informed about various items. One such list, "The Top Five List" (which can actually contain much more than five) sends me a dose of humor each day. To subscribe send e-mail to top5@walrus.com with SUBSCRIBE as the subject line. To unsubscribe you send UNSUBSCRIBE as the subject.) Subscribe to a list service and you'll automatically receive e-mail on the service's topic (in the above example, humor). Keep in mind that wireless communication is more expensive than communications over phone lines. Along with monthly base charges, there are per message or character charges, for all transmissions. You may want to keep your monthly service costs down by having list services send their messages to your desktop computer.

### Another wireless approach shows promise

The wireless communications I've described so far provide coverage in most major U.S. metropolitan areas using a network of radio transmitter/receivers maintained by the messaging service or an affiliate. Another newer form of wireless is now offered on a more limited basis by Metricom, Inc. The service, called "Ricochet," uses smaller transmitter/receivers positioned throughout a much smaller area (a city, a college campus, a industrial facility). Messages are sent via a special wireless modem. (For more on this system, see page

17 of this issue.)

This system can provide a full Internet access. I've used the "dial" option to link to traditional wired sites. This dial option is an added cost over the basic service, but provides me access to a shell account on a local provider where I can pick up larger messages that I can have forwarded there or connect to as if I had "dialed in."

The current wireless modem used with this service is external to the Palmtop (about half the size of the Mobidem, thinner and a little lighter). You can use it for 4-6 hours with a full charge of its nickel metal hydride battery. The range of this modem is limited to the immediate area of the service, and is available currently in the Bay Area (San Francisco / San Jose, CA), Los Angeles, some selected college campuses, and soon (I believe), Washington, DC.

Colleges where the network is fully installed include:

- ☐ Austin College (Sherman, TX)
- ☐ California Polytechnic (San Luis Obispo, CA)
- ☐ Oregon State (Corvallis, OR)
- ☐ Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA)
- ☐ University of California at Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)
- ☐ University of California at Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA)
- ☐ University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL)
- ☐ University of Oregon (Eugene, OR)

Colleges where the Metricom network is to be installed include:

- ☐ Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)
- ☐ San Francisco State University (San Francisco, CA)

The next generation of wireless communications needs to provide full access to Internet services. Metricom's Ricochet service is a step in that direction, but they need to expand coverage to other top metropolitan areas to make that capability more widely available.



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The price of their service was the best of all the services I tested.

### Other services — which one is right for you?

RadioMail, a comparably priced competitor of Wynd Communications, offers wireless messaging service over the same geographical area as Wynd.

SkyTel is another option. Although SkyTel describes its coverage as "nationwide," more major/minor cities seem to be covered by Wynd and RadioMail than the current SkyTel roll out. SkyTel has a transmitter/receiver that works with the HP 200LX and provides limited receive and send capability. It is my understanding that SkyTel has a message size limit. You may send a full message, which then will be broken down to

accommodate the message size of the pager receiving the message. As with other services, SkyTel's cost is a base monthly charge, some amount of "free" messaging, and then a charge for messages above the base rate. SkyTel's two-way coverage area may not be as complete as the RamMobile network used by WyndMail.

When making a decision on what is "right" for you, you need to take into consideration the following points:

**Availability** — RadioMail Wynd-Mail and SkyTel are available throughout most of the U.S., Metricom is available only in a few cities and college campuses.

**Cost** — Base charges which may include a certain number of free messages per month, plus a cost per message after that number has been reached (check with service).

**Priority of Messaging** — How fast does the message have to be sent (check with service).

**Size of Messaging** — Do you need to send small, brief notes, large text files, or attach binary files? (check with service).

**Size of Equipment** — The palm-top, Allpoints Wireless PC Card is the "smallest" combination. Others require a small external wireless transmitter/receiver.

As for me, I'm waiting for the next level in wireless, a Ricochet PC card modem with world wide coverage!

Until then — happy wireless communicating.

### Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article

*All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.*

#### cc:Mail — \$Varies

Contact: Lotus Development Corp,  
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Contact: Wynd Communications,  
4251 South Higuera Bldg 800, San Luis  
Obispo, CA 93401, USA; Phone: 800-549-  
6000 or 805-545-5155.



# Using the HP Palmtop with a Ham Radio

*This user connects his Palmtop to other computer systems via a Ham Radio.*

By Phillip Nichols

Recently my notebook PC took a trip to the doctor; maybe it was a vacation since it was gone for almost two months. My computing was done solely on my HP 200LX. It so happens that at about the same time I received my FCC license for Amateur (Ham) Radio. (I had the urge to try Ham Radio, studied from scratch, aced the test, and waited around for the license).

All right! My license came in (KC8DQF)! Now I could 'boldly go where no-one has gone before...' or at least where I'd never gone. I immediately wondered if I could tie my Palmtop into the radio for wireless work. I read about something called "Packet-Radio" — a way of connecting computer systems and networks by means of Ham radio. Then I saw an ad for a 'packet modem' that plugs into a computer to convert it to a TNC. A "Terminal Node Controller" is what Ham operators connect to their radio for the digital/analog conversion of the computer data as well as for providing error correction protocol called AX.25.

## You need the right stuff

The packet modem was the BP modem by Tigertronics (1-800-8-BAYPAC). It comes with special communications software and the

modem (a small 2-inch-square custom analog/digital modem based on the old Bell-202 standard). The BP draws 9ma of power directly from the serial port of the computer. No external power supply for the modem is needed with a standard PC. The general advice with a Palmtop is to use an AC adapter when connected to a modem. However, I find that the BP modem does not significantly reduce battery life and don't bother with the adapter.

The final piece of hardware in this setup is the actual radio transmitter/receiver (a RadioShack HTX-202 Transceiver). I prefer this radio because it does not allow Wide receive 108-174Mhz. What this means is that it is less bothered by what is called "Intermod" or interference from ghost signals "mixing" with Ham signals. This is important in choice of radios for this type of work. Now the question was: "Can I hook all this up to my HP Palmtop?"

## Getting it all to work with the Palmtop

Sure enough! I fiddled around and got it all to work, and then discovered that someone on the web has done the same thing with the exact same equipment (minus the antenna). So now there were at least two of us using the same Palmtop/packet radio combination. Now I could really send and receive "airmail." Although I use this system mostly at home from a desktop PC, the fact that it works with the Palmtop means that I can logon anywhere. Even from inside a shopping mall or at work.

I physically connect my Palmtop to my wireless transceiver using my packet modem. Previously I have loaded the necessary software drivers on the Palmtop so that it can communicate with the modem. I start the Packet radio communications software on my Palmtop and type "connect" fol-

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Phillip has been interested in computers since he purchased his first computer, a Commodore Vic-20. He spent his Junior year in High School as a teacher's assistant in his school's first computer class. Since then, he has used his personal, palmtop, and amateur radio skills to help others, spiritually and otherwise.



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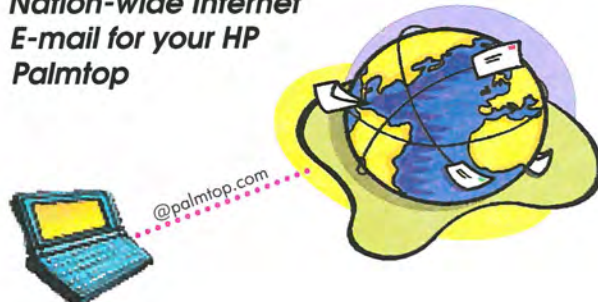
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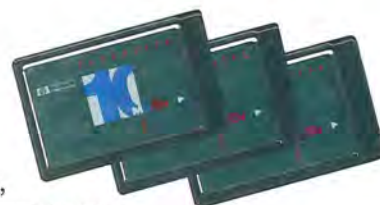
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lowed by the call letters of the person I want to communicate with. It's that simple.

Each packet radio area will probably have many PBBs (Packet Bulletin Board Systems) running a newer communications protocol known as JNOS. This protocol is similar to an Internet TCP/IP protocol in that it lets you communicate with packet radio addresses that are not in your immediate area.

Once you establish connection, you get a menu just like a normal BBS menu. There are up to 30 commands you can access, so there is a lot you can do depending on what BBS you connect to. As with Internet, Packet BBSs let you "telnet" (link) to other sites in neighboring counties or states. You can even send files by radio, although 1200bps is a bit slow.

#### Another user's story

Jason Baack of Maine, the other person I mentioned that uses this setup, told me how he got started.

"I was first introduced to packet radio two years ago on Rainbow Lake in northern Maine (U.S.A.). The total permanent population for the area was listed as four, living in a township called "T2R11." There were no roads into the lake, (you had to fly). Three 1.5K generators provided power during the daylight hours, so I was able to use my ancient Packard Bell 286. I got my Ham operators license while I was up there, got a wave antenna and other necessary equipment, and had a blast the rest of the summer connecting to DX nodes, the far reaches of Canada, Nova Scotia, and talking "keyboard-to-keyboard" to some local (20 miles away)."

Jason (call sign N1RWY) has plans to contact the Mir space sta-

tion someday from a nearby mountain, while I, though no less adventurous, am stuck in the flatlands of Michigan. I am planning to operate a land-mobile packet station while I ride on vacation trips this summer and also would like to find a pilot at a nearby small airport willing to try a little air mobile to see how far I can QSO (Amateur Radio communication on the air) with another station.

As it is now I can hit a packet Bulletin Board Service near me and get mail, topical groups, and telnet to other stations that may otherwise be out of my power range. There is even a World Wide Web/IRC-style conferencing area called CONVers for communication with other "packeteers" around the United States. And finally there are Gateways that tap directly into the Internet to speed things up.

#### Amateur Radio:

##### A hobby that's fun and helpful

Amateur Radio operators and clubs perform services by providing communications in times of disaster (both natural and man-made) and sending messages from non-hams to people around the globe that they may have lost contact with! Ham operators seem very interested in helping both the ham and non-ham. One fellow ham gave me an old receiver to help me improve my Morse-code abilities so I could communicate over world-wide frequencies. He also gave me 26 back issues of QST, a relevant Amateur Radio magazine. Another Ham is going to help me improve my antenna.

[Note: QST is a publication of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL). Call 1-800-326-3942 for information on becoming a Ham operator as well as joining ARRL. Membership includes



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## Packet radio networks

Ham operators designed their own "Network" of computers back in the late 70s. The Canadian Department of Commerce legalized Packet Radio by ham operators in 1978. Then the TAPR '80 (Tucson Amateur Packet Radio corporation) began developing radio communication protocols. 1981 TAPR decided to use a version of the computer industries x.25 communications protocol, calling it AX.25 ("A" for amateur radio). Packet radio communications started with a few people who could afford computers and to modify Bell-202 modems with the TAPR chip protocol.

Soon computer prices fell and Terminal Node Controller kits were becoming more available. Radio networks were being set up much like a unix "on/off LAN" and businesses "constant-on LAN." An example of an "on/off LAN" is an Internet web browser, that is not actually connected to the web site all the time, but intermittently connects to ("pings") the web site for information. A computer bulletin board system like CompuServe is an example of a "constant-on LAN" because it is always connected to the net and to other nodes in its system.

*the monthly QST magazine. They also have a NEW-HAM kit, which they'll give you free of charge (no membership required). It's their way of introducing you to their services and getting you started in ham radio. I also received an offer to receive a free Ham-related book. I chose Hints and Kinks from the list of titles. It contained a lot of little fix-it tidbits good for new Hams to know before hand, like how to mount your first antenna on your car without destroying your car in the process.]*

Amateur Radio Clubs also get together monthly and have special activities for both fun, as well as some that help emergency preparedness for the community. An example is the Amateur Radio SkyWarn system that tracks severe weather and reports it to local weather services. In Ontario, Canada; I have met some who chase and report on storms as well.

Amateur Radio provides you with the opportunity to experiment and challenge your own personal limits. In addition, it lets you give something back to your community. I definitely stretched my Palmtop's capabilities, but there's more

room to grow. With my HP Palmtop I can run satellite tracking programs to locate Amateur radio relay satellites in "real time" using REAL95.ZIP [1]. I have another TSR program I run while on packet that can help locate and calculate the distance between myself and the ham on the other end (GRID.ZIP [2]). I have modified a Palmtop-database for keeping a log of my contacts (ARS-LOG.ZIP [3]).

You can investigate ham-related topics by contacting a SIMTEL site on the Internet. Most have an amateur-radio and packet directory listing topics of interest. One such SIMTEL site containing about 100 topical directories is:

<http://oak.oakland.edu/simtel.net/msdos/index-msdos.html>

Another non-SIMTEL, but more ham-specific site is:

<http://www.cdrom.com/pub/hamradio/oak>

The more I look, the more people I find using their Palmtop with radio. We hope to "QSO with you

on 2meters (144-148Mhz)" sometime, or else exchange some packet e-mail! So how about getting your license? It's now easier than ever to get started, you don't even need to learn Morse-code to begin (but you'll earn more respect if you do). You have nothing to lose, and world of ham operators to gain.

For more information visit Jason's web site at:

<http://www.umecut.maine.edu/~baack>

or Ham-Radio On-line at:

<http://www.accessone.com/~vbook/hronline.htm>

### Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article

*All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.*

#### BP Modems

Model 2 — \$49.95

Model 2M — \$69.95

Contact: Tigertronics, Inc, P.O. Box 5210, Grants Pass, OR 97527, U.S.A.; Phone: 800-8Baypac or 541-474-6700; Fax 541-474-6703; <http://www.tigertronics.com>

### Shareware/freeware mentioned in this article

**HAMRADIO.ZIP** [1], available on this issue of the ON DISK includes the following three pieces of software:

**REAL95.ZIP** — Executable satellite tracker intended for use on the Palmtop. Freeware. Also available on the Internet at: <ftp://eddie.mit.edu/pub/951x/NEW/>

**GRID.ZIP** — Amateur radio executable and documentation files. Shareware. Contact: David Eanes, 4866 Drusilla Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, U.S.A.

**ARS-LOG.ZIP** — Database template for the Palmtop for logging radio contacts. Freeware.



# HP OmniGo 700LX corner

*This is the first of a continuing column for users of HP's new OmniGo 700LX. Gilles Kohl will look at developments in the 700LX, answer common questions, and give some useful tips.*

By Gilles Kohl

[Note: The OmniGo 700 LX is the Palmtop/cellular phone combination we reviewed beginning on page 29 of the November/December 1995 issue. It has been introduced in parts of Europe and Asia, but is not yet available in the U.S., pending adoption in the U.S. of the communications protocol used by the 700LX.]

This is the first installment of a regular column I'll write for users and prospective buyers of the new HP OmniGo 700LX. I'll try to answer frequently asked questions about the 700LX that surface on the CompuServe Hewlett-Packard Handhelds, Library 6 (the section dedicated to the 700LX, type GO HPHAND, Section 6). I'll also provide users with 700LX tips and tricks, especially in connection with the mobile phone, fax, data, and SMS functionalities.

## Frequently asked questions

**Q:** What is the difference between the HP OmniGo 700LX and the OmniGo 100 or the HP 200LX?

**A:** The OmniGo 100 and the 700LX are really two very different animals. The Omnigo 100 is a GEOS-based Palmtop that can be used with a pen as well as with its built-in keyboard.

The Omnigo 700LX was based

on the HP 200LX Palmtop computer and comes with its built-in applications. It does not have the pen interface of the OmniGo 100 and is based on the DOS operating system and HP's System Manager shell.

The OmniGo 700LX adds to the 200LX a docking cradle for the Nokia 2110 cellular phone (and compatibles), and a built-in Nokia datacard fax/modem. This adds wireless communications capabilities to the Palmtop. It also comes with an enhanced infrared port and flashing LEDs that indicate when the phone is in use, if an appointment is due, and when the battery is low. The AC adapter for the Nokia cellular phone can be used to charge both the Palmtop and the Nokia phone simultaneously (with the phone docked).

**Q:** Can I use the 700LX in my area?

**A:** Your geographical area must first have GSM coverage. Most of

Europe, Australia, and parts of Asia have this coverage.

In addition, your cellular network operator must support GSM fax, data and short message service — be sure to inquire about this before subscribing. Some providers differentiate between outgoing and incoming fax/data services, the latter requiring an additional monthly fee. Decide whether you need incoming data and fax calls in this case. When selecting a GSM cellular operator (you may have more than one available), also ask about short message service support, especially outgoing — called SMS-MO (mobile originated).

And finally, if you're frequently mobile outside your country, ask cellular service providers about roaming agreements they have with other countries' service providers. Make a list of countries you are likely to visit on business, and ask about those specifically.

Also ask about support for GSM fax, data and SMS roaming in these countries.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gilles Kohl is a native of Luxembourg living in Karlsruhe, Germany. He works as a software developer and project engineer for PROCAD GmbH & Co. KG, a German company specializing in CAD/CAM and electronic database management systems for technical applications. As a TeamHP member, Gilles enjoys helping other Palmtop owners in the German and French section of the HPHAND forum on CompuServe. Gilles can be reached under CIS:100114,3146.



## Marbles

Paul Merrill



"I bet I've pressed PHONE fifty times and I still don't get a dial tone."

## OmniGo 700LX tips and tricks

## Getting Short Message service center numbers

To be able to send short messages, you will need to store the phone number of the "service center" either in your phone, or in the "Phone settings" dialog of the SMS application. Ask your local provider for this number, and make sure that you enter it as an international number, that is, with the + sign and your country and network prefix.

## Accessing CompuServe from your 700LX

Some operators have installed network-wide CompuServe access numbers. This is true for the German operators, for example. For D1, the number is 22202, for

D2, it is 22111, and for E+, 123123. Maybe your operator has such a number too? It is usually much less expensive to call than an access number in the regular public switched network.

## Calling your home computer or another 100/200LX or OmniGo 700LX using Filer on the 700LX.

It's possible to connect the 700LX to another Palmtop or PC running HP Connectivity Pack software and transfer files back and forth via the File application. Note that this capability is an undocumented feature of the 700LX and not supported by Hewlett-Packard. In addition, it may not work on all cellular networks. Here's how

it works.

## TRANSFERRING FILES TO A PC

These instructions assume that you have a PC connected to a phone line via a modem. They also assume that you have the HP Connectivity Pack software installed on your PC.

## Step 1:

Open the Connectivity Pack version of Filer on your PC, press **[MENU]** Communications Remote Settings... and configure the communications settings for 9600 Baud, no parity, one stop bit. Set the interface to the COM port number your modem is connected to.

## Step 2:

Instruct your modem on your PC to answer the phone. Do this by sending it the command:

AT\*S0=1 [RETURN]

(Use a terminal emulation program with the same settings to do this.) You must leave the PC running the Connectivity Pack Filer or it won't connect

## Step 3:

Open Filer on your OmniGo 700LX and configure your remote settings the same as on your PC. The only exception is to select **Phone** as the COM port on your 700LX, and enter your home phone number in the Phone field. (You may save battery power by switching to the 'Phone' port only when you actually need the connection.)

## Step 4:

Dock the Nokia phone into its 700LX cradle, switch to Filer (the phone LED should blink now) and press **[F6]** (Remote).

Your Nokia should dial your home phone number, connect to your home phone and establish a remote Filer connection. Your home PC's files will appear on your 700LX in Filer's remote window. You can use Filer to copy, move, delete, rename, etc., files either on the 700LX or the PC you are connected to.

## Transferring files to another OmniGo 700LX

The procedure used to connect to and transfer files between another OmniGo 700LX is almost the same as described above. Go to the Remote Settings screen of the "target" 700LX (the one you are connected to) and configure it as described above, with the following exceptions:

\* You don't need to enter a phone number in the Phone field.

\* You must make sure that the Server Mode is enabled (in the Remote Settings screen) so that a



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## HP 200LXPALMTOP

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HP-F1061A HP200LX 2MB	<b>*619</b>
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HP-F1021B Connectivity Pack	<b>*99</b>
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## HP ACCESSORIES AND CABLES



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ASF PCL-300 palmtop light	<b>*29</b>
The Pouch carry case	<b>*16</b>
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## WIRELESS: HP OmniGo 700

remote connection can be established.

Connect and transfer files in the same manner as described in step four above.

[Note on security: Some users keep the Server mode disabled and enable it only when ready to use it as a server. It is rather unlikely for an unwanted connection to happen though. For this to happen, your machine would need to be on, and Filer running, at the moment the intruder calls. The OmniGo 700LX does not wake up when a mobile phone call is coming in. (This would require powering the datacard all the time). The same precaution can be applied to your office or home machine. Then, when you want to connect to it remotely, call someone to switch on your modem or launch Filer just before you attempt to connect.]

## Using DOS telecommunication programs over the Nokia phone

When you want to use a DOS communication program on the 700LX to communicate over the phone, you can run into a problem. Most of these programs do not let you set them up to communicate over the Palmtop's "Phone" port. However, there is a way to force the Palmtop to use the Phone port before running the DOS communications program. Before launching your communications program, run the SERCTL command.

Go to the DOS prompt, enter **SERCTL /P** and press **ENTER**.

This will set COM1 in the Palmtop to refer to the Phone interface setting instead of the serial port (you will see the phone LED blink). Set your DOS communication program to use COM1 at 9600 baud and it should work fine.

The acCIS CompuServe access program uses a DOS-based online port (for acCIS contact information, see page 44). If you want to use it on the 700LX, add the following line to the STARTUP.SCR file located in \ACCIS\ASI:

```
d d:\bin\serctl /p
```

After you are finished using a DOS communications program on your 700LX, do not forget to set up COM1 to refer to the 700LX's serial port. Quit the communications program and from the DOS prompt, key in **SERCTL /O** and press **ENTER**. This command also switches the COM1 serial port off to conserve power. **SERCTL /W** will switch it back to the wired external port.

Under SysMgr, the fastest way to switch off the phone LED is to launch and immediately quit the Datacomm application (Ctrl-Quicken key).

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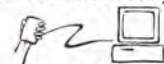
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# Keeping Pastoral Peace with the HP Palmtop:

*This Archbishop schedules business meetings and prayer meetings on his HP 200LX.*

By Randolph W. Sly



"Just take it for a week and try it," Mike urged, handing me a black padded case no bigger than a Tom Clancy novel. Mike and I both use computers heavily in our work and I could always count on him to keep me up-to-date on the latest developments in technology.

I was somewhat familiar with PDA's, but had rejected them in favor of keeping my old faithful Franklin Day Planner. It seemed to me that PDAs were just cute little gadgets that were more trouble than they were worth and provided only limited flexibility in the planning and scheduling environment. As it was, I fairly lived with my paper-based organizer.

I am an Archbishop in the Charismatic Episcopal Church. As such, I travel a great deal, covering a region that stretches from Kansas eastward to Virginia and northward into New England. In addition to this, I am also the rector of a local church in Kansas City. Before the Palmtop, my Day Planner had been my constant companion filled with events, daily appointments, do lists, project planning, several extensive phone lists, and other miscellaneous information. As you can imagine, it was pretty hefty to carry around.

But after trying out the HP 100LX, I quickly became hooked and bought it. I began setting up separate calendars for the current year as well as 1996 and 97 and laboriously entering all my phone

information. My notebook planner was then unceremoniously retired to the storage closet in my office.

After about a month of Palmtopping, I upgraded to a 200LX for a number of reasons, not the least of which was Pocket Quicken, which I used for tracking my discretionary funds bank account while on the road. I know Pocket Quicken is available for the 100LX, but I also opted for the HP Palmtop 200LX to get a better overall visual display and a more efficient Datacomm system. I have since added a 5MB flash card, modem, VR100  (for reading Project Gutenberg electronic texts on my Palmtop), several games, and Buddy  (which has really become a good buddy).

The HP has since become an important tool in my work.

## Separating Appointments and Events

When I began to implement the planner activities on the HP, I found that the built-in Appoint-

ments application provided me with the same essential elements I had in my Franklin notebook planner, but with greater flexibility. I could separate events from regular appointments; permanently schedule repeating appointments; view my activities on a daily, weekly, or monthly display; track my "do list" and even write extensive memo's or take notes and attach them to any of these entries.

The appointment/event option is a very important function of the Appointment Book. In addition to listing birthdays, holidays, special activities, etc., the Events option (date, but not time-related activities) helps me keep track of such things as holy days, special activities, theme days, and lectionary references. For example, on the second Sunday after Pentecost I would mark the day in the events area (abbreviated as 2P) along with an abbreviation of the readings to be used. Having the repeat function makes it easy to schedule longer events such as Holy Week with only one entry.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Randy Sly is Archbishop of the Eastern and Central Province of the International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church. He leads the parish at the Cathedral Church of the King in the Kansas City area, and serves as a teacher for the National Center for Fathering. He and his wife Sandy have three children: Dena, Debbie, and David. They live in Olathe, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City.



To keep my Appointment Book .APB data file from growing quite large, I use one file for each year: 95APB; 96APB; 97APB, etc. I also enter major notes in Memo, rather than as long notes in the Appointment Book. For Board Meetings I use a diary approach in Memo, marking the date of the meeting with the Palmtop's Date key **[FN]-[ ]** and then recording notes for that meeting. All notes for each board, committee, etc., meetings are then in one place. I can also use the same approach for journaling information during counseling sessions.

### ToDo's reflect work style, not work load

The "ToDo" section needed some customizing in order to accommodate my complex work demands. Even though I might develop an orderly list of activities to be accomplished in each of my domains, that's not how I function. I don't work on Provincial issues, then church, then personal, then international. I usually do all phone calling at the same time, then letter-writing, etc. The ToDo list had to reflect my work style not my work load. Therefore I separated it by type of responsibility: Project, Phone Call, Letter, Miscellaneous. While additional categories can be used, these four seem to work fine for me.

I labeled each one by placing a letter in the priority box: A signifies a project to be completed, B is for calls, C labels letters to write, and D is for miscellaneous. After each letter I write a priority number. For example A is "Projects" on my list, so the highest priority projects are A1 and the lowest are A5. Then the Palmtop automatically places items in alphanumeric order.

Also, these major category headings are set to repeat daily, so

If your natural propensity is to complete all your phone calls first, then go on to your letters, etc., a labeled ToDo system works well. Here Alphanumeric codes entered in priority fields keep ToDos organized by type. The numbers represent priorities. The letters represent categories: A for projects, B for calls, C for letters, and D for miscellaneous. The Palmtop automatically sorts them, making it easier to accomplish similar tasks at once.

they show up on future dates when I want to schedule a "ToDo" ahead.

Every time I enter something to do, I set it to carry forward, so my ToDos "haunt" me until they are done. When I do finish, I highlight the ToDo and press the spacebar. It's a great feeling to watch the HP place the item at the bottom of the list with a check mark!

One additional item has been carried over from my days of using the Franklin Planner. When I listened to a tape on using the planner, the teacher explained the importance of listing "Planning in Solitude" as the first "ToDo" of the day. This reserves a period of peace and quiet for looking over the schedule for the day and the week. For my Palmtop, "A0 Planning in Solitude" is repeated daily, appearing at the top of my list to help me preserve that time.

### Single, unified PhoneBook

My address section in my Franklin Planner was quite large and contained several separate listings. The "Provincial" list included churches, clergy and key laymen from across the Province for which I am responsible. I also had a local church membership list, personal list, business list, and an international listing of our churches.

When I started using my HP Palmtop I discovered the Subset feature for the PhoneBook. I was able to place all my numbers in one master list and, when needed, separate them by category. This especially comes in handy for such things as comparing the Province list in my Palmtop with the master mailing list on another computer. I just call up the Provincial subset in PhoneBook and print it out.

Newphone2 modified PhoneBook template gives additional fields for PhoneBook. You can load your PhoneBook .PDB file into the Palmtop's Database program and modify it to resemble this one.

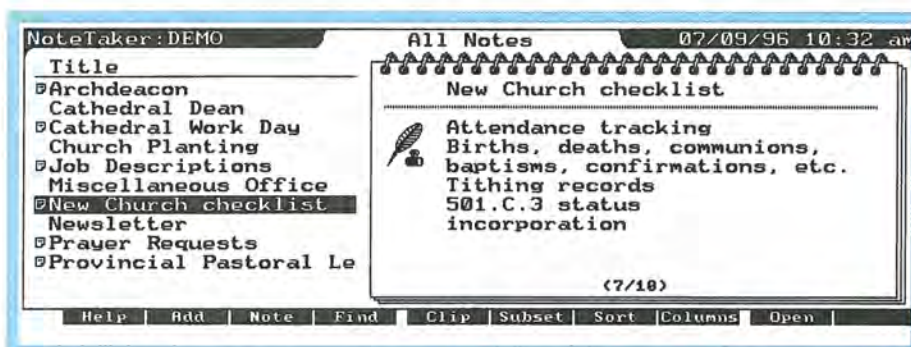


The PhoneBook database was handy, but limited in its fields. I found a new template called "Newphone2" on one of the on-line services, which saved me the trouble of custom modification. Newphone2 has many additional fields which I found very helpful, including e-mail address, pager number, and voice mail address. I've added my own category list, including America Online contacts, church contacts, and several others.

### From "Scan Cards" to NoteTaker

The greatest surprise came in the application called NoteTaker. Not heavily heralded (it doesn't even have its own blue key), this application has become one of my most important components.

In pre-Palmtop days, I was frustrated with inefficient methods for tracking tasks and delegating



I use NoteTaker to simulate the "Scan Card" approach to organize tasks.

responsibilities. Although time-based planning systems, such as my Franklin Planner, are practical for scheduling responsibilities which can be related to specific times and dates, they are less useful for tasks or goals that are not tied to specific times. At one point, I decided to re-adopt an old "Scan Card" system I had used years before to help me with task-oriented planning. This system used small square cards in a notebook to

store specific tasks and projects. The Scan Card company now had a software version that allowed me to "write" cards on my laptop computer. The system helped quite a bit, but was limited in its usefulness as I couldn't lug my laptop around all the time.

Instead, I now use my Palm-top's Notetaker as my objectives manager. I am able to establish written goals and tasks, track assignments for my staff, keep inci-

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dental information, and document topical quotes for speaking and writing. I develop a separate NoteTaker file for each area I am responsible for, as well as for every employee. Each "notecard" then, becomes an idea, objective, project, or delegated assignment.

I also use NoteTaker To Document research notes for sermons and other writing projects, and to keep track of thoughts and

ideas I pick up at conferences. One handy use of this application is my "grasscatcher" file where I record old or low priority thoughts, ToDos, missed phone calls, desired meetings, etc. Going to this files reminds me of things I may still need to get done.

### Continued blessings from the Palmtop

When I purchased the HP Palmtop, my friend included an HP Connectivity Pack for my PC. The ability to transfer information has been invaluable, as letters and other materials written on the fly can be imported to a word processing system for formatting and printing. While the DOS-based software is somewhat archaic in the world of Windows 3.X and 95, it works quite well.

The Database application works well for storing a detailed list of my sermons and other information. For my sermon database I created separate fields for title, topic, bible reference, type of sermon, an outline of what I plan to say, and location where I will deliver it.

Of course, Memo has become a valuable tool for a variety of tasks, such as writing sermons, letters, and articles (including this manuscript, crafted in the cramped quarters of an airliner's coach section). Lotus 1-2-3 and some of the other programs remained inviting yet untried areas of my newly-acquired palmtop.

Database: DEMO.GDB		Data Item	06/27/96 2:16 PM
Title	Personal Wellspring	Text	Rev. 3
Topic	Commitment	Type	Expository
Content	I. Background on Laodicea II. Introduction III. The Church That's Like a City IV. The Church That's Lukewarm V. The Church That's Loving the Lord VI. Close		
Where	Church of the King, FCA, IV		
Help Add Note Find Clip Prev Next Cancel Done			

A database for speakers, with room for an outline and other necessary details, here shown with a sample sermon record.

The one feature I still want to find or write is a mileage tracking template for Lotus 1-2-3. Right now I am logging mileage in a Memo document. The Lotus worksheet could automatically total daily mileage, subtract commuting miles and store other information. I'm planning on purchasing a Bible program and a pocket modem. The Megahertz XJ1144 is currently in use but the pocket style is preferred due to battery drain from the PCMCIA.

The HP 100/200LX has dramatically changed my work styles. It has become my constant companion and my most used computer. I am always looking for resources to make it work better. Toward that end, my friend Mike, who introduced me to the Palmtop, gave me another invaluable gift — every back issue of the HP Palmtop Paper. Thanks, Mike! I have become a subscriber — and a contributing author.

### Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article

*All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.*

#### AOL — \$Varies

America Online information service.  
Contact: See page 56 "How to Contact Us."

#### HP Connectivity Pack

See HP Product Index, page 55 this issue.

#### Megahertz XJ1144 PC Card Modem — \$115

Discontinued/available while supplies last.  
Contact: U.S. Robotics Mobile Communications Corporation, 605 N., 5600 W. (P.O. Box 16020), Salt Lake City, UT 84116, USA; Phone: 800-527-8677 or 801-320-7000; Fax: 801-320-6022.

### Shareware/freeware mentioned in this article

**BUDDY.ZIP** — Adds short-cuts and other features to Palmtop. Available on Best Tips 96 and CompuServe's HPHAND forum, library11.

**VR100.ZIP** — Lets you read electronic texts on the Palmtop. Shareware. Available on 1994-95 PowerDisk or from CompuServe's HPHAND forum, Library 11.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

Are you a \_\_\_\_ continuing subscriber (have renewed at least 1 time) or \_\_\_\_ new subscriber.

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1. Would you consider yourself a light, medium, or heavy  
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# On the Road with the HP Palmtop

*This Palmtop user hauls cars to testing grounds, motion picture film sights, and car races, while tracking trip details in Lotus 1-2-3 on his 200LX.*

By Rick Hurtle

I am a cross-country truck driver and have owned my own truck since 1980. I work in association with a company that transports show cars, test cars, and prototypes throughout the United States. If there is an auto show in your town, I have probably been there. This year's work includes transporting test cars up to the Northwest Territories of Canada for cold weather testing, working a photo shoot in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and delivering to a dealer's show in San Diego, California. This job is definitely not boring. It's fun and allows me to go to some great places where I couldn't afford to travel for vacation.

## From shoe boxes to Palmtop 1-2-3 files

When I first got into trucking, computers were not in many households and certainly not in mine. I didn't know anything about them and I didn't want to know. I kept all of my receipts in a shoe box and at the end of the year I would sit down with the adding machine and hope



Rick Hurtle with his 1996 Freightliner (equipped with custom stereo system, sink, microwave, refrigerator, and 18" DSS satellite dish) and HP 200LX Palmtop.

that I wouldn't forget or lose anything. Then I started keeping a ledger in the truck and entering expenses at the end of each day. It was a better way of doing things, but receipts would still go into the shoe box never to be seen again.

Eventually my father volunteered to keep track of my expenses on his PC, using Lotus 1-2-3. This led to my wife and I getting a PC at home. The only problem was

that I still didn't know how to run it. So my wife entered my expenses, but we were back to figuring it all out at the end of the year. I was glad she had plenty of shoe boxes.

I received my HP Palmtop as a birthday present from my father two years ago. Although I certainly appreciated the thought, I wasn't too crazy about the gift. I didn't know the first thing about DOS or Lotus. Finally, after two months of looking at my

200LX laying on the floor of my truck, I decided it was time to learn something about it. I saw an infomercial on TV for video tapes about DOS and several computer programs. I ordered them, viewed them, and found they were a great help. Between the tapes, my father, and the great guys in the HPHAND Forum on CompuServe, I finally entered the computer age.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rick Hurtle, owner of Hurtle Trucking, Inc., has been an independent cross-country truck driver for the past 18 years. Born and raised in Elkhart, Indiana, he now resides in Mishawaka, Indiana with his wife Ellen, his daughter Erin, and his son Guy.



## Spreadsheet works well on the road

Lotus 1-2-3 is the program I use the most on the Palmtop, working in separate spreadsheets for expenses, loads, gas mileage, and truck maintenance.

On one spreadsheet I keep track of my meals, hotels, repairs, tolls, insurance, and all truck-related expenses. I record totals each month, and at the end of the year I can enter all of them on another spreadsheet to give to my accountant. I keep the titles and columns in a file called START.WK1 and then each month I just copy it to the spreadsheet for the current month like JUN96.WK1.

Wherever I am, I try to take time each night to enter travel data. When I get home, I transfer all of the data over to Lotus 1-2-3 on my desktop using the HP Connectivity Pack. Then with all of my expenses already entered, my wife can add the business expenses that she pays from home, and we'll have a complete record.

The Quick LX typing aid program, which I purchased from Shier Systems and Software, has been a big help with 1-2-3 worksheets. I often stop at the same truck stops, motels, and restaurants on a weekly basis. Quick LX "remembers" words you frequently type. Enter a few characters, and the program finishes typing out the word. This saves a great deal of time when entering receipts.

I also keep track of the loads I have hauled and incoming revenue

D16: [W6] (B16-B15)/C16

READY

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Odo	Gal.	M.P.G.			
2							
12	05/16/96	73971	204.57	6.232			
13	05/20/96	74858	134.90	6.575			
14	05/21/96	75404	89.18	6.122			
15	05/28/96	76545	179.69	6.349			
16	05/31/96	77601	158.91	6.545			
17	06/03/96	78336	125.05	5.877			
18	06/05/96	79044	111.05	6.375			
19	06/07/96	80404	212.53	6.399			
20	06/11/96	82207	294.22	6.128			
21	06/16/96	84276	350.88	5.896			
22				ERR			

14-Jul-96 04:26 PM

Screen showing templet I use to track fuel mileage, with actual data entered. Formula entered in column D automatically figures mileage.

on a spreadsheet. I used to try storing most of this information in my head. Now, while on the road, I enter all the information about the trip in 1-2-3 and later, when I get paid for the trip, I enter the revenue. This way I know my exact gross income at all times.

Another important use of 1-2-3 is for tracking fuel mileage. With the high price of diesel fuel these days a sudden drop in fuel mileage due to a mechanical problem can cost me a significant amount of money. After entering my mileage in column B, the gallons in column A, a formula entered in column D figures mileage. Every time I fill up I have my fuel mileage in a few quick easy seconds.

The last 1-2-3 worksheet that I use is for truck maintenance. I can quickly check the date of a repair or see if it's time for an oil change. I have my oil changed every 10,000 miles and a grease job every 5,000 miles. This is usually a monthly expense and I need to keep close track of it. Not getting the oil

changed at the proper mileage can cause future mechanical problems. I keep track of all repairs on the worksheet so that if I have a repair made and the same part fails again six months down the road then I can quickly check the date of the first repair for warranty purposes.

When I sell or trade the truck (for a new one with toilet and shower) I will be able to print out a nice spreadsheet of all maintenance and repairs for the new owners. They will know exactly what has been done to the truck, when it was done, and what shop did the work. Before the Palmtop, I would list all of this in a small spiral notebook. After three or four years the notebook would fall apart. A neat spreadsheet of the maintenance and repairs will be a good selling point.

## Built-in applications organize life on the road

I used to have business cards scattered throughout the truck. Fortunately, PhoneBook replaced that mess. I keep contact information on friends and co-workers, along with truck repair shops and dealers I do business with — all in one PhoneBook file.

For hotels, since I travel a lot, I try to keep track of where I stay so I can call ahead for reservations in the future. I store hotel data in a file named HOTEL.PDB. I use a macro to toggle between the two \*.PDB files. (The only reason I keep hotels in a separate file is that

7: (F2) [W8]

READY

	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	Meals	Fuel	Comdata	Hotel	Repairs	Truckwash	Tolls
		Additives		Showers	Parts		
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							

3-Jul-96 11:52 AM

A portion of the expenses templet I use to track meals, repairs, tolls, insurance, and all truck-related expenses. Expense categories continue to the right off screen.



when I am looking for a hotel they are all together in one file and it makes it easier to find the one I want.)

I use the Appointment Book application more for personal uses like recording birthdays, anniversaries, etc. One anniversary I didn't think I needed to include in the file was my own. Guess what? I forgot it this year. It is now in the file.

If you happen to have a job in the trucking industry where you have several appointments on each load for pickups and deliveries, then Appointment Book is very helpful. You can enter all of the appointments in APPT and then the daily greeting every morning when you turn your Palmtop list your daily appointments.

NoteTaker is great for keeping route information, and it's easy to read the directions from the Palmtop while driving. Before the Palmtop, I would always write this information on scrap paper that I would usually lose very quickly. Now I keep them in NoteTaker for future reference. For example, if I'm at a pay phone taking down directions, I have my Palmtop with me and enter the information directly into a NoteTaker file. It may be a year before I will need the directions again, but it will save me a phone call at that time. Every month I will delete entries that I know I will never use again.

### **NoteTaker useful for storing load information**

I use Pocket Quicken to keep my checkbook balanced. It is very easy to use and has eliminated my monthly mistakes. If you are uncomfortable using 1-2-3 then it is also a great way of tracking your expenses. You can create categories like fuel, repairs, hotels, etc. Then at the end of the month or year you can print out a nice summary of all your expense categories with the totals. It's neat and really quite easy.

### **Staying in touch with acCIS and CompuServe**

Last, but not least, I use acCIS and CompuServe to communicate with family members and friends while I'm on the road. I started out with a Zoom PK14.4 external pocket modem with acCIS on a 2MB SRAM card but it didn't take long before I needed much more storage capacity. I just purchased from Shier Software Systems an EXP 8MB flash/modem card. This card has modem capabilities and flash memory built into one PC Card. It works great. I now have plenty of memory and don't have any extra equipment to carry into the truck stops when I want to log on to CompuServe.

Most truck stop restaurants have phones at the tables, so I can usually just unplug them and plug in my modem. Where phones are permanently mounted to the table I use an acoustic coupler, though I don't always have the best luck logging on with it. Eventually, I would like to get a wireless modem so I don't have to bother going into a truck stop, but that is on my wish list. When I am in a truck stop it is amazing how many people will come up and say "What's that?" or "Is that a computer?" I have yet to see another truck driver with an HP 200LX. They seem to be a well kept secret. Laptops are getting fairly popular with a lot of drivers, probably because they haven't heard of the Palmtop.

There are several forums on CompuServe that I access. HP-HAND is a must for anyone with a Palmtop, especially a beginner like myself. The members there are very quick to respond to your questions and are most helpful. Another popular forum that I and a lot of truck drivers visit is Motorsports (Go Racing). NAS-CAR and Indy car racing is extremely popular and I can keep up with qualifying and racing as the events happen. I usually just have time to check race results, but if I read something that I want to comment on, I do. When time permits I "lurk" around in a few other CompuServe Forums, like the Wine forum and the Car forum.

### **Staying on top of things in a changing world**

Trucking has changed so much through the past years and good maintenance and financial records are a must. Good financial records really make it a lot easier in an IRS audit. If you have your expenses printed out in a nice summary or spreadsheet it makes the audit go faster and usually puts the auditor in a very happy state of mind.

The HP 200LX Palmtop has definitely made my life much easier. It's provided me with much more accurate bookkeeping and a number of very useful built in applications. It does everything for me that a laptop would do at a much lesser cost and without taking up a lot of storage space in a small truck cab. It definitely would be an asset for any truck driver or small business owner.

#### **Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article**

*All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.*

#### **CompuServe — \$Varies**

Contact: CompuServe Information Service; Phone: 800-848-8199 or 614-457-0802 (ask for operator 231).

#### **Lotus 1-2-3 V.5 (for Windows) — \$119**

Contact: Lotus Development Corporation; U.S.A.; Phone: 800-343-5414; Fax: 770-698-7694.

#### **acCIS 3.1 — \$79**

#### **Quick/LX—\$39**

Contact: Shier Systems and Software, Inc., 920 Hampshire road, Suite A, Westlake Village, CA 91361, USA; Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: 74777.2477@compuserve.com

#### **EXP 8MB Flash/modem card. —\$479**

Contact: EXP Computer; Phone 800-EXP-6922 ext. 641 or 714-453-1020; Fax: 714-453-1319.



# When Palmtops Deserve a Name

*For many users, their HP Palmtop has become an endeared family member and close companion. So why not name them?*

Compiled by Avi Meshar

People develop a very personal relationship with their Palmtops. A while back I discovered that some were even giving their Palmtop a name. I posted a message on the Fireside section of CompuServe's HPHand Forum. I received responses representing 10 languages, including Swiss German to Farsi to Computerese. Along with some very interesting names, I received some stories worth sharing.

Some of the names have literary background, such as "Luggage" named by Martin Breidenbach for the magic traveling chest which always follows its owner, from Terry Pratchett's Discworld series. Others have deep cultural roots, as in "Geek," or commercial origins, as Jeff Rodriguez' name "Go, Hewey Go!" which was given when HP stock reached a new level on the stock market.

Names are not always permanent. Depending on his mood, Steven Spears calls his Palmtop, "ENIAC\_Jr" or "Nag," (he must set many alarms). Some are more impersonal, like "It" or plainly, "200LX." But more often names reflect what is dear to a person's heart. Rob Mitchell, a physician, named his LX "Sophia" because of his fondness for wisdom (Sophia is Greek for wisdom). Another "Ecosse," the French name for his favorite country, Scotland.

There are the inevitable varia-

tions on the HP such as Hewey, Baby Heuy, Hou Pe, the HP, and Haych Pee. Also LXander or LXandra, Lex, Mainframe, Pocket Rocket, Speedy, Lommecomputer, Obelisk, and Deep Thought.

Other people label their Palmtops in accordance with their own perception: "That Thing in Your Pocket" or "Cute Little Computer." Jesper Siig's son calls his dad's computer his "puter." Someone's wife is quoted as saying, "Do you have to bring that 'Thing' with you everywhere?"

The stories that follow demonstrate not only the meaning of the name, but the fun and significance of having a computer companion.

## Palmella

By Linda Worthington  
74452.105@compuserve.com

When my husband needs a phone number I say "I'll ask Palmella." When we need to know our (complicated) schedule I say "I'll ask Palmella." In all things I proudly



Linda Worthington has a "chat" with Palmella while she (Linda) sits on a rock in the middle of the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland.

proclaim "Palmella knows all!" What more can I say? These little computers are much more than technology...they are, to many of us, almost personalities, a kind of member of the family. So how could I call her "the LX," "the 200,"...that would be like calling my daughter "the girl," the "human"...!



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Avi Meshar is a principal in D&A Software Inc., a company which develops and markets software for the Palmtops. He is also the Technical Support Manager at Shier Systems & Software, and the President of A W Meshar Associates, a company involved in technology assessments. He can be reached by phone at 805-371-9391 and e-mail at 75561.633@compuserve.com.



## Grandpa and Little Computer

By Stan Dobrowski

76711.2302@compuserve.com

I call my 95LX "Grandpa" because it is getting on in years. It is the ancestor to all the other HP Palmtop products and I don't think I will ever part with it because it is near and dear to my heart. Even though there are several newer and faster models out now, I will always look up to old Grandpa.

My children (ages 4-1/2 and 7) call the 200LX "Little Computer." I keep a couple of game programs on the 200LX to occupy the kids when things get dull like during a long drive in the car. The children will ask me, "Dad, do you have any games on your little computer?"

## Ecosse

By Gary Spiers

74603.3001@compuserve.com

Ecosse is the French word for Scotland.

I am an Englishman living in Huntsville, Alabama. Before work brought me here I spent five years living in Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, and greatly enjoyed the natural beauty of the land. The weather is very mixed (an understatement) and creates interesting interplay of light/shade storm and sun etc. with very rich (but muted) colors. The rugged nature of the land bred a fiercely independent nation (even now Scotland maintains a separate legal system from the rest of the UK) which has a strong sense and perspective of its place and contributions to history.

My Palmtop was named after Ecosse not only because of my love for the land and its people but also because the independence from the desktop that it gives me symbolizes the independence of the Scottish spirit.

## My Brain 2

By Avi Meshar

75561.633@compuserve.com

"My Brain 2" came about in the aftermath of the Earthquake in LA in January 1994 ("The Northridge Quake"). I suddenly had to deal with a huge number of details, from relatives and friends, in and out of the area, to insurance, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), to sorting out the extent of the damages to my property, helping some friends and neighbors with similar types of activities. I probably kept the machine running over 15 hours per day, using it to record names, phone numbers, and addresses. I added approximately 200 entries in the first month after the earthquake! The NoteTaker application came in handy to write down EVERYTHING. The trauma affects your memory and the ability to memorize and recall. So writing everything in the computer saved me from more losses and bad moves.

I began calling the Palmtop "My Brain 2," because it contained "a branch of my brain" as one of my friends said. Friends also called it "the Annex" to signify that it was a part of my own brain.

Then came the time to deal with the insurance companies. I won't share all the gory details, just one anecdote: I was given a huge form with something like 5 or 6 pages. "Fill this out in detail, substantiate all dates and amounts with records of purchase, prices, dates..." yeah, right! I had peppercorns and other assorted herbs from my kitchen, hiding in the living room carpet and 5.0 aftershocks to deal with, and they wanted sales slips.

I quickly duplicated the form as a Lotus spreadsheet, including all the crazy formulas the original form specified. It took no time to walk through the inside the house, then around the perimeter and

recorded everything. After much haggling they agreed to accept my statements.

The agent wanted me to bring it all in. I offered to fax it! I opened it in Lotus and printed the spreadsheet to a file. Then I edited it and saved it. I used DOSCIM to fax it from my Palmtop to the agent. Ten minutes later a call comes in. "How did you do all this so fast?" asked the agent, "Do you have two brains?" I confirmed his supposition.

## Mon Joujou

By Marc Steingrand

100607.2125@compuserve.com

The name Mon Joujou for my Palmtop was given by my colleagues in December last year. I had just bought the HP and spent all my free time at my work in Paris, France, discovering all the things I could do with it. Since my co-workers had seen me often working with it, they asked me one day where I had "mon Joujou," (French slang for my toy, as in a child's favored plaything) and so the name was born.

Mon Joujou is my favorite toy. I use it for all my work and person-



Mark Steingrand and "Mon Joujou" share an upbeat moment. Mark has even taken Mon Joujou to the top of the Eiffel Tower (not shown).





Thaddeus Computing's own Jim Lasley named his Palmtop "Brain" because it helps him remember things he would normally forget. Jim is pictured here holding Brain in front of shelves full of HAM radio equipment. Not shown in the photo are Jim's nine children.

al planning. I have had Mon Joujou only since 7 month, and it goes with me almost everywhere I go. I have even used Mon Joujou at the top of the Eiffel Tower.

#### **It!**

By Dennis Terazawa  
71233.436@compuserve.com

If I leave my briefcase at home and get to work —

I don't worry about that.

If I leave my wallet at home —

I won't have a fit.

If I forget and put on different colored socks —

I certainly won't sweat.

But if I forget my 200LX at home—

I'll drive home to get "It!" .....

#### **Brain**

By Jim Lasley  
MIS Coordinator  
Thaddeus Computing

Why call it "Brain?" My Palmtop remembers things I would forget. I do have to enter them to begin

with, but then it reminds me or beeps at me when it's time for a company meeting or one of the Boy Scout meetings I'm in charge of, or whatever needs my attention. My "Brain" prompts me to meet my regular Sunday night responsibilities as a HAM radio operator. I can be relaxing with my family (9 children) and when I get my five minute warning, I get up, go to the next room, and send morse code messages through the national HAM radio message system.

#### **Sophia**

By Rob Mitchell

Sophia is Greek for wisdom. One of my favorite places (not yet visited) is Istanbul which has the most beautiful church in the world. Haghia Sophia, the church of divine wisdom, was consecrated in 535 AD! So I think of the Palmtop as containing wisdom and call it Sophia!

## HOW TO USE YOUR PALMTOP

# HP 200LX, LapLink and Windows 95

*This user explains how to use your Palmtop's built-in LapLink Remote Access application to access, backup and swap files between your Palmtop and a PC running Windows 95.*

By Pete Jordan

**L** LRA is LapLink's "remote access" software built into the HP 200LX that lets you connect to and access the disk drives of another PC computer. What this means is that with the HP Palmtop connected to a PC via the HP Connectivity Cable, and with LapLink running on both machines, you can copy, delete, merge, or access files on either of the two computers disk drives. This is very handy for backing up

the HP Palmtop to the desktop PC.

I have been able to install the version of LapLink that comes with the HP Connectivity Pack onto a PC running Windows 95 and make the connection between the two computers. The Palmtop's drives show up as drives under the Win95 "MyComputer" application. I can "drag and drop" files between the two computers and open and save files on the HP from your Windows applications.



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I figured this out through a combination of trial and error, Microsoft tech support and a couple of ideas I received on CompuServe's HP Handheld forum. I would like to share these ideas and get input back from those that find other ways of doing this.

### **Getting LapLink Remote Access to load and run under Windows 95**

First you need to install the Connectivity Pack software onto a Win95 machine. This creates an Icon in Windows for LapLink Remote Access. But if you click on the icon, you get an error message along the lines of "insufficient resources to load LapLink Remote Access." The solution is to set up your PC so that it loads LapLink from DOS before it loads Windows 95.

To do this, you need to use a batch file named LLRA.BAT (found in the CPACK200 directory of your desktop PC after you install the Connectivity Pack). You must run this batch file from the DOS prompt before you load Win95. Otherwise, it will not work.

There are four ways to do this:

1. Probably the simplest way to run this batch file is to press **[F8]** as soon as you see the "Starting Windows 95" banner during boot-up after you turn on your PC. This aborts the loading of Windows 95 and takes you directly to the DOS prompt.

You have about two seconds to press **[F8]** before Win95 loads. If you miss this two-second opportunity, you have to re-boot the system and try again. If you press **[F8]** within the two seconds, a menu will appear that allows you to select "Command Prompt Only." Select this option and the DOS prompt appears on your screen. Load LLRA.BAT by typing `c:\cpack200\llra` and pressing **[ENTER]** (change the path in this command if you have moved LLRA.BAT to another drive or directory). Then start Windows 95 by typing `win` and pressing **[ENTER]**.

2. Another way to go directly to the DOS prompt when you turn on your PC is to modify the MSDOS.SYS file. This file holds information on the configuration of the system. First make a backup copy of your current MSDOS.SYS (in case you mess up and want to restore your system to the way it was). Then open MSDOS.SYS in the Windows 95's Edit or Notepad applications. Find the line "BootGUI=1" and change the line to "BootGUI=0". Save the file and restart your PC.

This causes your machine to boot directly to the DOS prompt when you turn it on, without starting Windows 95. After you have loaded LLRA.BAT you can start Win95 by typing `win` and pressing **[ENTER]**.

3. Another easy way is to select the Windows 95 "Shutdown Windows" option. From the menu, select "Restart in MS-DOS Mode." Load LLRA.BAT then return to Win95 by typing `win` at the DOS prompt. This method is probably

the best for those who may just use LapLink sporadically.

4. The final way is to load LLRA.BAT directly from the AUTOEXEC.BAT file. Open AUTOEXEC.BAT in the Windows 95's Edit or Notepad applications and add the following lines to the beginning of the file (but after the command line referring to MSCDEX.EXE):

```
cd\cpack200
call llra.bat
cd\
```

Save the AUTOEXEC.BAT file and restart your computer.

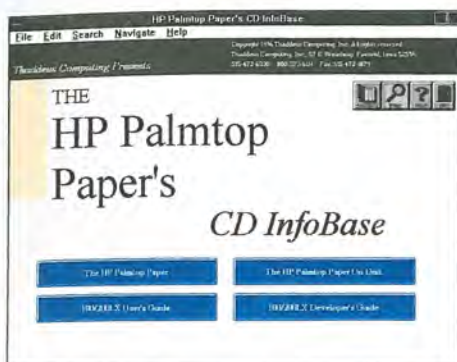
This procedure is the most automatic of the four described, and though it was very reliable on my Toshiba laptop, it is not reliable on all PCs. It seems that if the PC makes the switch to the Windows 95 "protected mode" before the HP and the Win95 machine attempt to connect, they will fail to connect.

### **Establish physical link before starting Windows 95**

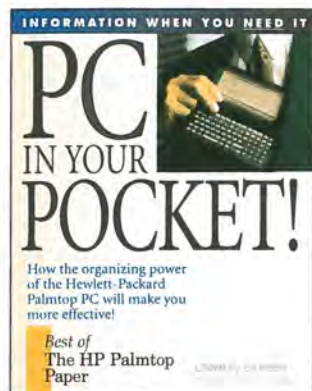
If the physical link between the Palmtop and PC is not established before starting Win95, the ability to make a link is sporadic at best. However, if you make the link before starting Win95 you can break the link and reattach reliably as often as you like. The drive mappings to the HP Palmtop will disappear and reappear in "My Computer" as you disconnect and reconnect the Palmtop. So before starting LLRA.BAT using any of the above methods you should have the HP 200LX physically attached to the Win95 machine and have LapLink running on the HP. You should wait the 3 to 5 seconds for the connection beeps before typing `win` to start Win95.



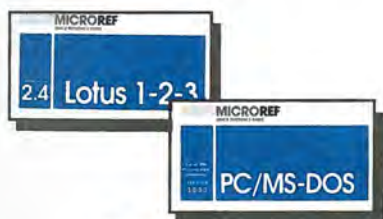
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## Thaddeus Computing INC.

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## The HP Palmtop Paper's CD InfoBase

### A MUST-HAVE FOR ALL PALMTOP USERS

This PC Windows based CD contains in searchable hypertext format all 1991-95 *HP Palmtop Papers*, detailed product descriptions from advertisers, the HP 200LX User's Guide, and the HP 100/200LX Developer's Guide. In addition, you'll find the over 750 pieces of freeware and shareware from the 1991-95 On Disk collection, from the Subscriber Power Disks, and from the Developer's Guide.

*"The contents of the CD are great! I love having all the information in one single place instead of having to search through piles of paper."*

Thomas Rundel

## PC in your Pocket

### New HP Palmtop book: ideal for users, great gift for interested friends

The editors of *The HP Palmtop Paper* have organized some of their best material into a readable, practical book about the HP Palmtop. The book is filled with hundreds of real-life examples of the HP Palmtop's features and capabilities. Busy professionals describe how they use the HP Palmtop to organize their time, information, and money to be more effective. Order directly from us and we'll include a disk of much of the software mentioned in the book. Written both for users and for those considering purchasing HP Palmtop.

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## HP 100/200LX Developer's Guide

### Attention: Palmtop Developers and Enthusiasts

The Developer's Package includes everything you need to write software, design hardware, or simply understand the inner workings of the HP Palmtop.

The Package includes:

- 1) Printed copy of 586-page Developer's Guide
- 2) Disk containing HP-created source code and utilities for developers
- 3) Complete set of kits for marketing your Palmtop product
- 4) CompuServe starter kit (CompuServe's where Palmtop programmers hang out)
- 5) PAL: a C source code library for developing software with the look and feel of the HP Palmtop built-in applications

continued from page 8



## Making LLRA a Windows 95 compliant driver

You will receive the following error message when starting Windows 95 with LLRA loaded. "Windows 95 has detected a new real mode driver "LLRA3" that may affect system performance, would you like more information". LLRA3 is not considered a "safe" protected mode driver under Windows 95 and will force Win95 to run under its slower real mode disk drivers which can negatively affect performance. The solution is to lie to Windows 95 and tell it that LLRA3 is indeed a safe, tested driver and to run it though Win95's protected mode disk and file access. We lie to Win95 by doing the following.

Win95 keeps a list of "safe" DOS drivers in a file in the windows directory called "IOS.INI". Simply make a backup copy of IOS.INI then open it in any text editor such as Edit or Windows Notepad and add the line LLRA3.-EXE under the section title [SafeList]. The next time you start Win95 it will now treat LLRA as a safe driver and run under optimal performance with it loaded.

I have tested LLRA under Windows 95 protected mode drivers on three machines. I cannot guarantee safe results with whatever combination of drivers you may have on your machine. Remember messing with disk drivers can result in data loss. I have no idea why Microsoft or HP/Traveling software did not test this driver. I can only conclude by its absence from the "Unsafe" driver list that it was simply never tested as opposed to being unsafe. See Microsoft Knowledge Base article Q130179 and the Microsoft Windows 95 resource kit for more information.

I also recommend setting the "Idle-connection timeout" on the HP 200LX to its maximum of 60 minutes. If the HP shuts off automatically, reestablishing the con-

nection is not reliable. If you shut off the connection by hitting F8 or shutting down LapLink on the HP getting the connection back is pretty reliable.

## Mapping Drives

OK, so now you can use LapLink from Win95 but all those nasty drive mappings from the HP screw up your network drive mappings. By default LLRA and your HP 200LX map the HP's A, C, D, and E drives to your Win95 machine. If your normal Novell or NT drive mappings start at F: LapLink will conflict with them and cause all sorts of trouble. For instance, if your Win95 machine has one hard drive and two CDROM drives it has already used up the available drives to drive E. LapLink comes along and maps four more drives up to drive I. Then your network administrator (me) has set all the default login scripts to start at F and we now have problems. Using the LLRA control panel from Windows allows us to fix that by specifying what drives to map and where. However, remember the whole reason for this "how to" file is that the LapLink Control panel does not run under Win95. So here are the following two suggestions. One I found myself and the other I owe to Alexander Gutfeldt, a user here on the HPhandheld forum.

Map only the drives on the HP that you need to see. I only need to see the C drive on the HP 200LX so that I can transfer data, open files and do backups. To turn off all other drives from mapping, edit the TSI.INI file on your HP 200LX. The TSI.INI file can be found in C:\\_dat\llraserv\. No need to backup the TSI.INI file before you edit it, there is a safe copy in read-only memory on your D drive. To just map the C drive add or edit this line from the second section of TSI.INI, [ReDirector], on the HP to say the following:

Private=ABDE

To map the HP's A and C drive,

Private=BDE

I never map the A drive however, if I need to back up a memory card or need the data from it I'll just put it in my Toshiba notebook.

That cuts down on the number of drives being mapped. However, it might also help to specify as what drive letter we want it to map to. I map the HP 200LX to drive H on my Toshiba since it's easy to remember and it's the only drive letter none of the five or six networks I plug into use.

To map the HP 200 to a specific drive letter add the following lines to the TSI.INI file in the CPACK200 directory on the Windows 95 machine. These lines must be LAST in the file.

[Mappings]

HP200=0000000C0000000000000000  
00 000

The name "HP200" must match exactly the name that the HP 200LX uses, this can be set on the 200LX under LapLink settings. The default, however, appears to be "HP200." The drive mapping line you will notice has twenty-six places followed by a space and three more digits. I have no idea what the last three digits do but the first twenty-six represent A through Z. Just edit that line to put the HP 200LX drive to map (in this case C) in the ordinal place of the letter you want it to map at. The above example has my HP's C drive mapping at my Toshiba's H drive. H is the eighth letter in the alphabet so C is put at the eight position in the mapping order. You can add other drives from the HP at other places in the map.

I hope this helps others get the most out of Windows 95 and their HP 200LX. If you have any suggestions or comments about this file please remember to drop me a note.



# • • • BASIC TIPS • • •

[All tips by *HP Palmtop Paper* Technical Editor Tom Gibson. You can contact Tom on the Internet at: [tom\\_gibson@thad-deus.com](mailto:tom_gibson@thad-deus.com)]

## 1-2-3

### Comparing 1-2-3 on the desktop and the Palmtop

The Lotus 1-2-3 version that is included on the 100/200LX (ver.2.4) is very similar to Lotus 1-2-3 ver.2.4 for the desktop. Here are some of the modifications that HP did to make 1-2-3 fit into the Palmtop's small amount of ROM.

- ☐ Write-protected cells appear no different from other cells. On the desktop version, the data in the write-protected cells appear in different colors from the non-write-protected cells.
- ☐ "PR" appears in the control panel when a protected cell is highlighted.
- ☐ Because of ROM memory constraints, the Help text, though still good, is less extensive — instead of a paragraph or so for each help subject, you get one sentence. Help is still context sensitive. For example, if you are entering a date using the @DATE command, but forget the exact syntax, type in @DATE, press **[F1]** (Help), and the following help message is displayed:

@DATE (year,month,day) calculates a date number for year, month, and day.

- ☐ The macro commands {BIGLEFT}, {BIGRIGHT}, {PGUP}, and {PGDN} will operate differently depending on whether your Palmtop is displaying 6 columns x 13 rows or 8 columns x 20 rows (to change the size of your display, press **[Fn]** **[Spacebar]**).

In other words, if you are in 20 rows x 8 columns, the {PGDN} or {Page Down} command will go down 20 rows, if you are in 13 row x 6 column mode, the {PGDN} will page down 13 rows. If these macro commands are used and the zoom feature has been changed, this can cause big problems. So be careful.

- ☐ There is no 123.EXE file, so you cannot start 1-2-3 from DOS.
- ☐ To save memory, the default status for the Undo feature is off (disabled). Select **[MENU]** **Worksheet** **Global** **Default** **Other** **Undo** **Enable** to turn Undo on.
- ☐ Add-ins must be run from RAM. To auto work, an add-in must: fit in RAM; must work with any size screen in MDA or CGA mode; and must have been developed using the Add-in Toolkit specifications from Lotus.
- ☐ The collating sequence for 1-2-3 can be set only in the Setup utility (see screen below).

### CONFIGURATION SETTINGS

1-2-3 can specify many configuration settings (press **[MENU]** **Worksheet** **Global** **Default**). The Palmtop's Setup utility (**[&...]** **Setup** **[MENU]** **Options** **1-2-3**) also contains settings that affect 1-2-3,

including 1-2-3 Sort Order which sets the order 1-2-3 sorts its databases. (A few of the settings appear in both the Palmtop's Setup and 1-2-3, such as date format, time format, punctuation, currency, and printing (interface and baud).)

Here are some things to remember.

- ☐ Setup's time and date formats do not affect 1-2-3 cells.
- ☐ Setup supplies default or initial values to 1-2-3 for punctuation and currency, as well as for the printer interface, baud, and name.
- ☐ If you make a printer, punctuation or currency setting in 1-2-3, it overrides the setting in Setup.
- ☐ For a **[MENU]** **Worksheet** **Global** **Default** setting command to remain in effect after the current session, you must preserve it with the Update command. Otherwise, the settings for the next session will take default values from Setup again.

## DOS

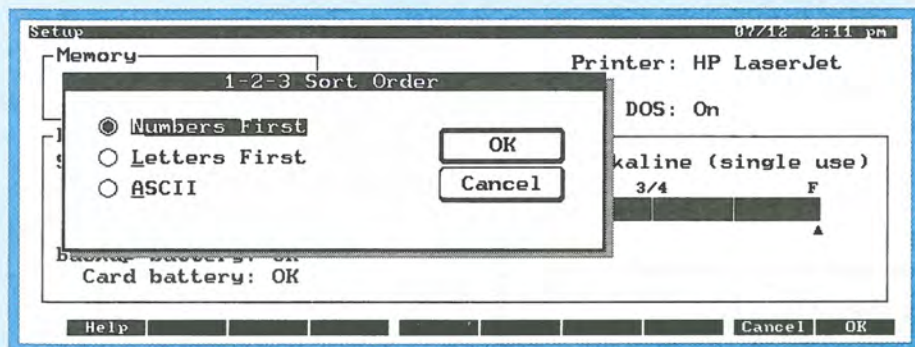
### Don't rename your C:\\_DAT directory

The built-in Palmtop applications follow standard MS-DOS conventions for file and path names. You can, if you choose, remove or rename all files and directories on your Palmtop in Filer. However, you should not rename the \_DAT directory on your C drive. This directory is used by several of the built-in applications and if removed or renamed, will render the applications useless.

## HP CALC

### Using HP Calc to calculate payments on a new house

The time-value-of-money (TVM) application enables you to do compound-interest, amortization, and interest-rate-conversion calculations. You can use TVM to solve virtually any financial problem involving a series of cash flows (money received or money paid) that meets the following criteria:



Setup's 1-2-3 Sort Order screen showing optional ways to sort 1-2-3 databases



- ☐ The dollar amount is the same for each payment.
- ☐ The payments occur at regular intervals.
- ☐ Payment periods coincide with the compounding periods.

For an example, suppose you are buying a house. The terms for the purchase are as follows:

**Total price** — \$27,000

**Down payment** — \$8,000

**Mortgage** — the sellers will hold a contract for 4 years at 8.5% interest per year

You can use HP Calc's TVM application to figure out your monthly payments. To do this, follow the steps below.

1. In HP Calc, press **[MENU]** **Applications** **TVM** to bring up the Time Value of Money application.
2. Press **[MENU]** **Clear Data** to bring up a blank TVM template.
3. Enter the pertinent data.
  - a. Since you are paying the contract over 4 years, press  $4 \times 12$  to get 48 months (the length of the loan), then press **[F6]** to enter 48 as the number of periods.
  - b. Enter 8.5, then press **[F7]** to enter the annual interest rate in the Annual interest field.
  - c. Enter 27,000, subtract 8,000 (total price minus the down payment = loan amount) then press **[F8]** to enter the total loan amount of 19,000 into the Present value field.
  - d. The future value of the loan will be 0 since you will be paying it off com-

pletely in the 48 month duration of the loan, so leave it at 0.

- e. "Payments per year" should be set at 12 (one payment per month).
- f. B/E (Beginning/End) should typically be set at End as most mortgages and real estate contracts are paid at the end of each month (the opposite of paying rent which is usually at the beginning of the month).

Finally, press **[F9]** to find your payments per month. You should have the negative amount -468.32, or a monthly payment of \$468.32.

You can also work the equation using other variables. For example, if you want to see how low your payment would be if you extended the loan to 30 years, simply enter the amount of months (360), use the ArrowKeys to highlight the Number of Periods field, and press **[ENTER]**. In this case your payments would go down to \$146.09.

#### Misc.

#### When you need to manually save your data

Data entered into most of the built-in Palmtop applications (Appointment Book, PhoneBook, Database, Note-Taker, etc.) is saved when you press **[F10]** (Done) after entering information for each individual entry. This is the case whether the file you are working off of is on the A or C drive.

However, in 1-2-3, Memo and System Macros, a stored file is not changed until you manually save the changes by pressing **[MENU]** **File** **Save** (you will need to supply a file name if it is a new file) and press **[ENTER]**.

This is good to know since it is frustrating to spend a lot of time writing up

the world's coolest macro in System Macros, only to quit the application forgetting to save the macro first.

#### Seven battery-saving tips

Probably the largest ongoing expense you will ever occur for your HP 100/200LX is the cost of batteries. Here are some ways that you can extend your battery life, both the AA main batteries and the coin or Backup battery, and save a little money in the process.

- ☐ Quit DataComm and the Filer when you're not using them. These applications use the serial port and therefore require slightly more power than the other applications.
- ☐ When you see a low battery warning message, replace or recharge your batteries as soon as possible. This will keep your Palmtop from having to fall back on the backup battery, which will have to take over when the main batteries fall below the minimum power threshold.
- ☐ Always install fresh, high quality batteries of the same brand, since different brands of batteries have different performance characteristics (rates of voltage drop, etc.).
- ☐ Remove high-current plug-in cards when you're not using them (this does not include memory cards). For example, plug-in modem cards are notorious for draining batteries quickly, even when you're not using the modem. Therefore, be sure to take out a modem card when you're not using it, and when you are using it, use the AC adapter if possible.
- ☐ Use rechargeable batteries as described in appendix B of the 200LX owners manual. Get into a routine of regularly recharging or "topping off" the rechargeable batteries.
- ☐ Use the AC adapter (HP F1011A) whenever possible. When the 100/200LX is plugged into the AC adapter, the batteries are not being used at all, and therefore the life of the batteries is extended.
- ☐ Make an appointment at least yearly to change your backup battery. If you normally run the main batteries below 2.3 volts, or receive a lot of "Main Battery Low" messages, you will want to change your backup battery more often, maybe every six months.

Calculator		Time Value of Money - case 1		07/12 2:14 pm	
Number of periods.....	N =	48.00			
Annual interest.....	I%YR =	8.50			
Present value.....	PV =	19,000.00			
Payment.....	PMT =	-468.32			
Future value.....	FV =	0.00			
Payments per year.....	P/YR =	12			
Begin/End mode.....	B/E =	END			
RPN		PMT = -468.32			
<div> <span>Help</span> <span>Amort</span> <span>Iconv</span> <span>B/E</span> <span>P/YR</span> <span>N</span> <span>I%YR</span> <span>PV</span> <span>PMT</span> <span>FV</span> </div>					

HP Calc's Time Value of Money screen showing values entered to determine monthly payments (figure includes principle and interest) on house purchase example above.



# ▲▲▲ QUICK TIPS ▲▲▲

## DOS

### Speed up your keyboard's response time and repeat rate

You can dramatically speed up the keyboard response and increase the repeat rate when you hold down a key. To do this insert the following command in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file:

```
MODE CON: rate=32 delay=1
```

**Mode** — Mode configures system devices such as the parallel and serial ports, code pages and the display. In this instance we have changed the "typematic" rate (the rate at which DOS repeats a character when the key for that character is held down). The typematic rate has two components — rate and delay. The syntax for the MODE command to set the typematic rate is:

```
MODE CON[;] [RATE=r DELAY=d]
```

**CON** — Refers to the keyboard.

**RATE=r** — Specifies the rate at which a character is repeated on the screen when you hold down a key. Valid values are from 1 to 32, and equal approximately 2 to 30 characters per second, respectively. The default value on your Palmtop is 20. If you set the rate, you must also set the delay.

**DELAY=d** — Specifies the amount of time that must elapse after you press and hold down a key before DOS starts to repeat the character. Valid values for d are 1, 2, 3, and 4 (representing 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, and 1 second, respectively). The default

value is 2. If you set the delay, you must also set the rate.

By placing the above example command in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, you set the repeat rate to 30 characters per second and tell DOS to pause for 1/4 second before repeating the character.

### Revise your DIR command to display newest files first

When you type DIR at the DOS prompt you get a display of the directory you are in, as well as any subdirectories under that directory. You can revise your DIR display so that newest files come first (subdirectories are listed at the bottom), and the display pauses after each screen automatically. To do this, place the following line in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

```
SET DIRCMD=/o:-g-d/p
```

**/o** — List by files in sorted order

**-g** — Group directories last by using the - prefix

**-d** — Sort files by date and time, listing the newest files first by using the - prefix

**/p** — Pauses after each screen of information

This command presets the DIR parameters and switches (the "switches" are the modifying commands like /p above, that modify the DIR command). You can use any valid combination of DIR parameters and switches with the SET DIRCMD command, including the location and name of a file.

You can change the

DIRCMD default settings by typing the SET command at the DOS prompt with a new parameter or switch after the equal sign (=). The new default settings are effective for all subsequent DIR commands until you use SET DIRCMD again on the command line or until you restart DOS. To clear all default settings, type the following command:

```
set dircmd=
```

To get a list of the variables you can use and the proper syntax for DOS commands, simply type the command name followed by /? at the DOS prompt. For example, to get help for the MODE command, type MODE /?.

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Technical Editor  
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(Thanks to Beverley Howard and  
Alexander Gutenfield)

### Create a small DOS program to exit AppMgr

Many of us start our favorite DOS applications from Application Manager. The [8...] Letter sequence soon becomes second nature and comes close to being a hotkey for your DOS applica-

tion. While APPMGR allows you to suppress the "Press a key to continue" message, you are still left in Application Manager when the DOS application terminates. (A real hotkey would return you to the built-in application you were in prior to hitting the hotkey.)

Here is a way to have Application Manager automatically terminate in such a situation by leaving an ESC character in the keyboard input buffer for Application Manager to process.

1. Create ESC.COM (an 11 byte size program). To do this, in Memo create a new file (press [MENU] File New). Type in the following information exactly as it is shown below.

```
N esc.com
```

```
E 0100 B4 05 B9 1B 01 CD 16 B4 4C CD 21
```

```
RCX
```

```
000B
```

```
W
```

```
Q
```

The second line and the last line of the file must be empty as shown in the screen dump below.

2. Save the file. To save the file, press [MENU] File Save As, then name the file C:\ESC.DMP. Make sure the



ESC.COM created in Memo. The second and last lines must be empty.



ASCII box is checked so the file will be saved as plain ASCII text, then press **[ENTER]**.

3. Quit Memo and terminate System Manager. To do this, press **[&...]** **[MENU]** Applications **T**erminate all **[ENTER]**.

4. Have DEBUG create ESC.COM for you by entering the following line at the DOS prompt.

```
debug < C:\ESC.DMP
```

5. Create a batch file that launches your DOS program and calls up ESC.COM.

To start a DOS application that will close Application Manager on termination, you must create a batch file that launches your DOS program, then calls up ESC.COM.

For example, suppose I want to run ZIP.COM (a file transfer utility), and when it is done, have the Palmtop return to the last opened application instead of leaving me in Application Manager. Let's also say that ESC.COM and ZIP.COM are both stored in C:\UTIL. The batch file might look like this:

```
C:\UTIL\ZIP /s  
C:\UTIL\ESC
```

6. Load the batch file to Application Manager. (For information on how to add an application to Application Manager see "Application Manager, Applications, Adding" in your HP100/200LX User's Guide.

Don't forget to include an upside-down question mark (press **[Fn]** **[3]**) in the comments field to disable the "Press a key to continue" message. For other undocumented features of Application Manager like the upside-down question mark, see APPMGR.100 in CompuServe's HPHAND forum, library 11.

*Gilles Kohl [TeamHP]  
CompuServe ID: [100114,3146]*

## Lotus1-2-3

### Automate importing and graphing with an interactive macro

Anytime you want to import text file data into 1-2-3 (importing numbers into 1-2-3 from an ASCII file), and graph your data, you are required to execute a lot of keystrokes — for example, **[MENU]** **F**ile, **I**mport, **N**umbers, enter the name of the file, then enter the commands to graph — each time you call up a different file. There is an easier way using macros!

To do this we will create a Lotus template that contains a macro we will use each time we want to view our "text file created" graphs.

1. In Lotus 1-2-3, press **[F5]** (GoTo), type AA500, then press **[ENTER]**. This will be a safe place to enter our macro — if we delete some rows or some columns in the future, it shouldn't delete our macro.

2. Next give the macro a shortcut key combination by typing **'z**, then pressing **[ENTER]** **[MENU]** **R**ange **N**ame **L**abels **R**ight **[ENTER]** **[ENTER]**.

This creates a range name for our macro and makes the hot key combination **[ALT]** **[Z]** — any time we want to run our macro we need only key in these key strokes.

3. Press **[RightArrow]** to go to cell AB500 and enter the following lines into cells AB500 through AB502.

```
{Home}/fin{?}~  
/rncGraph~{?}~  
/ggGraph~cv
```

Here is an explanation of the lines above:

Line 1: Goes to the Home cell, runs **[MENU]** **F**ile **I**mport **N**umbers, then waits for you to supply the file name and press **[ENTER]**, then it presses **[ENTER]** again.

Line 2: Runs **[MENU]** **R**ange **N**ame **C**reate. Enters the word 'Graph,' presses **[ENTER]** and waits for you to supply the range for 'Graph' and press **[ENTER]**, then it presses **[ENTER]** again.

Line 3: Runs **[MENU]** **G**raph **G**roup (using the 'Graph' Columnwise), then runs **V**iew to view the graph.

*Jesper E. Siig  
CompuServe ID: [100660,3503]*

## Memo

### Change margins when printing to a file

I often need to print a Memo document to a file so that I can use it as a fax document. When you print to a file in Memo, Memo inserts a carriage return at the end of each line after the number of characters you have specified (on some systems a carriage return counts as a character). You can set your margins at Left 1 and Right 79 for a final 80 character output. This way you won't have a lot of lines with only 1 or 2 characters in them when you send your fax.

*Ron Viecelli  
CompuServe ID: [73310,3663]*

## Misc.

### To Hot Swap or not to Hot Swap?

When you remove or insert a PC Card into your Palmtop, turn off your Palmtop first. If your Palmtop is *on*, you are "hot swapping" the card. The HP100/200LX is not designed for hotswapping PC Cards. There have been reports of hardware problems caused by hot swapping, and indeed my Palmtop wiped out its internal RAM disk when I inserted a modem card (stupid me, I knew better!) while it was on.

*Alexander Gutfeldt  
CompuServe ID: [100527,2461]*

## Alternative uses for Magnify!

Magnify! is a commercial program by ACE Technologies that enlarges a section of the HP 100/200LX's screen to make reading the screen easier on your eyes. I use Magnify! mostly to show another person something that I don't want to take the time to explain to them. For example, when the Safeway clerk asks me for my "air mail" card, I just highlight the row in PhoneBook that I store the number on, hit escape and show the clerk. Because the number is larger than the rest it is obvious what I am showing them. This method may take a few keystrokes, but it sure saves a lot of trouble explaining things and ensures that they get the number.

*Blair Saunders  
Calgary, AB., Canada  
CompuServe ID: [71520,210]*

## Keeping the Palmtop in its place

Because the Palmtop is so small and light weight, it often moves around when I touch type on it. To remedy this problem, I have placed a strip of Velcro on the back of my Palmtop. This keeps it in one place and it doesn't slide around when I don't want it to.

I placed my Palmtop on a mouse pad made out of "wet suit" material and was pleased to discover that the Velcro strip on the back of my Palmtop secured the unit for typing better than I have experienced on any other surface.

*Beverly Howard  
CompuServe ID: [75533,1712]*

## Differences in Battery Software

There are many different utilities and programs that monitor/assist in charging batteries on the HP Palmtops. Here



is a short list (far from exhaustive) of some of the most popular battery monitoring programs now being used by Palmtop users.

**ABC/LX** — This commercial program from DNA/Shier Systems, controls and monitors battery charging. After you set up the charging process, ABC/LX monitors the charging and turns it off based on: a length of time you specify; a maximum voltage you specify; or a stop in voltage rise after a time you specify. Though automatic, you can choose to see a graphed profile of the charging progress if you desire.

**BATT100** — is a simple DOS program that reads the battery voltage. Must be invoked by the user when they want to check the batteries. Does not consume any memory when not in use. Batt100 is a "passive" program — it provides information for you to make decisions on, but does not control your machine for you. BATT100 is freeware.

**BUDDY** — is a program that provides lots of short cut ways to use your Palmtop. One of its many functions is to provide a continuous read-out (in Filer) of the battery voltage and time since its last full charge. Buddy is also a "passive" program with regard to battery usage. Buddy is a TSR that consumes a substantial amount of memory (about 54K), and is therefore the battery management program of choice only if you want to use its many other great features. Buddy is shareware.

**BATTMAN** — is a program that monitors battery usage and includes sophisticated algorithms for each type of battery. Battman not only tells you the battery voltage, but will shut down your Palmtop if it determines that the battery voltage is too low to safely perform functions such as

writing to Flash cards. It is this last "active" feature that earns Battman the loyalty of its users. Battman is a small TSR and is commercial software.

**BCC** — This PAL application gives you full control when charging batteries in

your Palmtop. BCC lets you specify how long a time your batteries charge, at what voltage the charging should stop, and much more. Using BCC together with the Palmtop's Appointment Book application, you can automatically charge your batteries when necessary without ever having to think about.

**VOLT/LX** — is a commercial program from DNA/Shier Systems that monitors the status of non-rechargeable batteries. (See New Products, page 6 for more information.)

Victor Roberts  
CompuServe ID: [70413,1423]

### Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this section.

#### ABC/LX — \$34.95

Controls and monitors battery charging.

#### VOLT/LX — \$9.95

Monitors status of non-rechargeable batteries.

Contact USA: Shier Systems & Software, 920 Hampshire Road, Suite A, Westlake Village, CA 91361, USA; Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: info@shier.com

Contact Europe and Asia: Rundel Datentechnik, Rappenstr. 20, 73033 Goeppingen, Germany; Phone: +49 (07161) 14707; Fax: +49 (07161) 24473; E-mail: 100023.2477@compuserve.com

#### BATTMAN — \$39

Monitors battery usage.

Contact: ACE Technologies, Inc., USA; Phone: 800-825-9977 or 408-734-0100; Fax: 408-734-3344.

#### Magnify! — \$19

Enlarges section of 100/200LX's screen for easier reading.

Contact: ACE Technologies, Inc., USA; Phone: 800-825-9977 or 408-734-0100; Fax: 408-734-3344.

### Shareware/freeware mentioned in this section

**BATT100** — Reads battery voltage. Last available ON DISK on Best Tips 96. Available on CompuServe's HP HAND forum, Lib. 11.

**BCC** — PAL application for charging batteries in your Palmtop — you specify how long your batteries charge, at what voltage the charging should stop, etc. New this issue. Available from CompuServe's HP HAND forum, Lib. 11.

**BUDDY.ZIP** — Adds a variety of short cut procedures and extras to use your Palmtop. Last available ON DISK on Best Tips 96. Available from CompuServe's HP HAND forum, Lib. 11.

**ESC.COM** — Quits Application Manager so you can run a DOS program, then returns you to original built-in application. New this issue. Available from CompuServe's HP HAND forum, Lib. 11.

**ZIP.ZIP** — File transfer utility. Last available on ON DISK on Best Tips 96. Available from CompuServe's HP HAND forum, Lib. 5.

## HP Product Index

[Please find the price and contact information for commercial products mentioned in the articles at the end of the article in which the product is mentioned.]

HP Products contact information: Authorized HP computer dealers worldwide (i.e. the same place you can purchase an HP LaserJet). To locate an authorized dealer in the USA, call 800-443-1254. You can also purchase the 95LX & 100/200LX and its accessories from **ACE Technologies** at 800-825-9977 or 408-734-0100; Fax: 408-734-3344; **EduCALC** at 800-677-7001; Fax: 714-582-1445. **Global Connections** at 800-709-9494 or 608-752-1537; Fax: 608-752-9548.

### HP OMNIGO 100 PRODUCTS

**HP OmniGo 100** (HP F1310A) — \$349

**HP OmniGo Connectivity Pack** (HP F1311A) — \$99.95

**CLIP & GO** (HP F1312A) — \$64.95

**HP OmniGo 100 Connectivity Cable** (HP F1015A) — \$24.95

(Same as HP 100/200LX PC Connectivity Cable)

**HP OmniGo 100 Strategy Games** (HP F1313A) — \$49.95

**HP OmniGo 100 Accessory Pens** (HP F1314A) Includes three pens. — \$9.99

### HP PALMTOP PRODUCTS

**HP 200LX 2MB** (HP F1061A) — \$679

**HP 200LX 1MB** (HP F1060A) — \$499

**HP 1000CX Palmtop PC** (HP F1203A) — \$399

**HP OmniGo 700LX** — \$NA

(Combination HP 200LX, fax software and Nokia GSM cellular phone.)

**HP StarLink Service** — \$Varies

(Wireless messaging service, for "one-stop communications solution." Contact: 800-917-LINK.)

**1.8MB/12v Flash Card** (HP F1024A) — \$199

**5MB/12v Flash Card** (HP F1012A, with Stacker) — \$365

**10MB/12V Flash Card** (HP F1013A, with Stacker) — \$579

**Dictionary/Thesaurus Card** (HP F1005A) — \$129.95

**AC/DC Adapter** (HP F1011A) — \$34.95

USA/Canada (Opt. ABA); Europe (Opt. ABB); Australia (Opt. ABG);

United Kingdom (Opt. ABU); South Africa (Opt. ABQ)

**PC Connectivity Cable** (HP F1015A) — \$24.95

**MAC Connectivity Cable** (HP F1016A) — \$24.95

**100/200LX Connectivity Pack** — \$109.95

U.S. (HP F1021B); International (HP F1021C)

**Connect/Adapter Kit** — \$24.95

(HP F1023A) 4 adapters for connecting the 100/200LX to modems, printers, and PCs.

**Service Agreements** (100/200LX, 2-year extension) — \$85

For U.S. HP Palmtop users. Units must be under warranty to extend. Contact: HP, Corvallis Service Center, USA; Phone: 503-757-2002.

NOTE: Prices listed are suggested retail price. Dealer prices may vary.



## HOW TO CONTACT US

[Please note: *The HP Palmtop Paper* does not and cannot provide technical support.]

There are a number of ways to get in touch with *The HP Palmtop Paper* staff. You can write, mail us a disk with your comments, send CompuServe or Internet e-mail, fax, or call. Our mailing address and contact information is:

**Thaddeus Computing, Inc.,**  
**57 E. Broadway**  
**Fairfield, IA 52556, U.S.A.**  
**Phone: 515-472-6330**  
**or 800-373-6114**  
**Fax #: 515-472-1879**  
**Internet: letters@thaddeus.com**  
**CompuServe: 76125,1773**

**TO SUBSCRIBE, change address, or clear up any problem with your subscription,** contact Sharon Dilmore in our subscription department. Call phone numbers above. E-mail us at: [orders@thaddeus.com](mailto:orders@thaddeus.com)  
**CompuServe: 76125,1773**

**TO ADVERTISE in *The HP Palmtop Paper*** contact Brian Teitzman, Margaret Martin or Tiffany Lisk at phone: 515-472-1660 or 800-809-5603; Fax: 515-472-8409.

## Technical Support

**HP Technical Support** — HP offers these options:

□ **FREE TECHNICAL SUPPORT** — 8:00am. - 5:00pm. P.S.T. Phone: 541-757-2004; Fax 541-715-5488. Or write: HP Mobile Computing Customer Support at 1000 N.E. Circle Blvd., Corvallis, OR 97330, USA.

□ **FREE AUTOMATED SUPPORT** — offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Phone: 800-443-1254. (No operator is available.)

**On-Line Support**—offered by these bulletin board services.

□ **COMPUSERVE: GO HPHAND FORUM** - Call 800-848-8199 or 614-457-0802. For FREE membership state #231.

□ **AMERICA ON LINE: Keyword PALMTOP** - Call 800-827-6364 or 703-893-6288 for membership information.

□ **INTERNET: comp.sys.palmtops; or comp.sys.handhelds**

## How to Submit an Article

The richness of *The HP Palmtop Paper* comes from the contributions of Palmtop PC users. We and your fellow users welcome your submissions. (We do not offer payment for articles, your reward is knowing that you've helped others.)

If you have a good idea and want to "go for it," send it in via CompuServe e-mail [75300,2443], Internet: [hal\\_goldstein@thaddeus.com](mailto:hal_goldstein@thaddeus.com), or send disk or hard copy to Hal Goldstein or Rich Hall at the above address. Alternatively you can send an outline of your idea. We will try to guide you as to when and whether we would use the article and contact you if we need clarification or have any suggestions — please include your phone number. We may want to use an article but for a variety of reasons you may not see it for many months. Please understand that we cannot promise to run any particular article at any particular time.

If you can, especially if you write a Palmtop Profile, send us a photo of yourself — black and white is preferred, but color is acceptable.

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## Shareware and Freeware Index (July/August 1996) Software on The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK or CompuServe

PRODUCT	FUNCTION	CIS FORUM / LIBRARY	TYPE	PAGE
42-LX.ZIP	Game: 42-LX bidding game.	*Internet	Free	7
ADVERT.ZIP	Text: Descriptions of products advertised in this issue.	NA	NA	NA
BCC.ZIP	Utility: Battery charging manager.	HPHAND/11	Free	55
BJ.ZIP	Game: Blackjack for the Palmtop.	*Internet	Free	6
DBV.ZIP	Application: Database viewer.	HPHAND/11	Free	9
DOMINOES.ZIP	Game: Dominoes.	*Internet	Free	6
ESC.COM	Application: Application for exiting Application Manager.	HPHAND/11	Free	53
FREECCELL.ZIP	Game: Solitaire.	*Internet	Free	7
GOLF.ZIP	Game: Golf for the Palmtop.	*Internet	Free	7
HAMRADIO.ZIP	Miscellaneous files from HAM Radio article.	ftp (see p. 32)	Free & Share	32
HP-SOK.ZIP	Game: Sokoban game for the Palmtop.	*Internet	Postcard	7
KLONDIKE.ZIP	Game: Another Solitaire game.	*Internet	Free	7
PCREMOTE.ZIP	Utility: Text-based remote control.	HPHAND/9	Free	7
PCX_VIEW.ZIP	Program: Program for PCX graphics viewing.	HPHAND/11	Free	9
PE.ZIP	Application: PalEdit, a multi-featured text editor.	HPHAND/11	Free	9
PTP28.ZIP	Text: The HP Palmtop Paper, July/Aug. 96.	NA	NA	NA
PTPDSK28.ZIP	Database: PTP OnDisk Index in .GDB format.	NA	NA	NA
README.ZIP	Text: Cover letter to the HP Palmtop Paper OnDisk.	NA	NA	NA
SLY.ZIP	Database templates: From Pastoral Peace article.	NA	Free	37-40
TRUCKER.ZIP	Lotus: Spreadsheet for calculating mileage.	HPHAND/11	Free	43
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UNZIP.EXE	Utility: Utility to decompress .ZIP files.	HPHAND/1	Free	NA
WINFILER.ZIP	Utility: For file transfer between PT and Windows 95 PC.	HPHAND/9	Share	9
YAHTZEE.ZIP	Game: Yahtzee.	*Internet	Free	6

\*Internet address for games: <http://members.aol.com/freewh144/index.html>

## Software mentioned and included in past issues of The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK Subscriber's PowerDisk, or CompuServe's HPHAND Forum

BATT100.ZIP, (Best Tips 96) Utility: Reports status of Palmtop batteries (HPHAND, 11) Free, 55; BUDDY.ZIP, (Best Tips 96) Utility: Adds useful features to HP Palmtop (HPHAND, 11) Share, 28,38,43; VR100.ZIP, (Power Disk 94/95), Application: Vertical text reader (HPHAND, 11), Free; ZIP.ZIP, (Best Tips 96) Application: File transfer program (HPHAND, 7) Free, 54. (All 1991-1995 software contained on *The HP Palmtop Paper's* CD InfoBase.)

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